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Mrs J Eames
Headteacher
Batley Girls' High School
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Dear Mrs Eames

Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey inspection programme: Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and students, during my visit on 3 February 2011 to look at work in PSHE education.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with students and staff involved with the leadership and management of PSHE education; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of students' work; and observation of three lessons, an assembly and a visit to the Well-Being Centre.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE education is outstanding.

Achievement in PSHE education

Achievement in PSHE education is outstanding.

- Students make exceptional progress with their personal and social skills as they move through the school. Sixth-form students are confident, self-assured and empowered to discuss sensitive issues.
- Students have impressive knowledge of sex, relationships, drugs and alcohol education. They understand the effects of drugs and alcohol on their bodies and on their emotional well-being.

- They develop sophisticated emotional strategies to cope with different cultural and social contexts and thrive on the challenge to be successful and independent individuals.

Quality of teaching in PSHE education

The quality of teaching in PSHE education is good.

- Teachers prepare thoroughly for PSHE lessons. A wide range of high-quality resources is used well to stimulate and support learning.
- Positive relationships enable engagement and enjoyment in PSHE lessons. Students are focused and interested in the subject matter. Behaviour in lessons is outstanding.
- In some lessons, learning objectives lack clarity and insufficient opportunities are created to check the quality of learning.

Quality of the curriculum in PSHE education

The quality of the curriculum in PSHE education is outstanding.

- The scheme of work is thorough and well-mapped across the school to ensure that key elements, such as sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol education are regularly revisited at appropriate times.
- The visual arts specialism encourages creativity and self-expression and has a significant impact on improving students' self-esteem.
- PSHE education is embedded throughout the school. The culture of respect lies at the heart of the school's ethos and vision and is palpable in social spaces, wall displays and within students' relationships.
- The Well-Being Centre, staffed by a number of external professionals, provides outstanding support and counselling services, as well as detailed information and guidance. It is used by a large majority of the students. It is also accessed by staff and parents.
- A wide range of enriching opportunities is provided within and beyond the formal PSHE curriculum, such as enrichment days and residential visits.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE education

Leadership and management in PSHE education are outstanding.

- The leadership of PSHE education is inspirational and has successfully engaged all staff to meet the complex needs of the students and their families.
- Professional development and training have a high profile and are appropriate to the needs of the whole staff as well as individuals.
- Self-evaluation is accurate and action-planning is informed by regular monitoring and feedback from students and parents.
- The engagement and partnership with external agencies are exemplary in providing inspirational role models to raise students' aspirations.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring that the intended learning objectives are clear and regularly revisited during and at the end of all lessons.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop PSHE education in the school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Clive Kempton
Her Majesty's Inspector