

15 October 2010

Mr D Day  
Headteacher  
Wrotham School  
Borough Green Road  
Wrotham  
Kent  
TN15 7RD

Dear Mr Day

### **Ofsted 2010–11 survey inspection programme: alternative provision**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation and that of your staff when I visited your school on 5 October 2010. Please pass on my particular thanks to the parent, governor and students who gave up their time to talk to me.

As outlined in my initial letter, the visit had a particular focus on examining the use of alternative provision for students who are vulnerable to underachieving, and the impact this has on the outcomes for these students.

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.

This letter briefly summarises our discussion at the end of the visit.

### **Outcomes**

- Students enjoy their college courses and are motivated to do well. All of the students attending courses achieve a qualification at Level 1 or 2 and all but one from last year's group are continuing in education. In addition, there are marked improvements in behaviour and attitudes to learning.
- Students currently attending college courses feel that they are learning important skills which will help them with their future employment or training. They also say that the opportunities are helping their all-round improvement. Letters from a previous student and a parent accord with these views.
- Not all the students, however, are aware of the accreditation they are working towards.

- The school identifies early which students should attend college courses and takes into account their potential to successfully complete the courses and their commitment. Students are told well in advance about the possibility of attending college. This improves behaviour, attitudes and attainment before as well as during the courses.

### **Selecting and commissioning**

- The school has established close links with local further education colleges and is currently working with one of them. As a result, the school is confident about the quality of provision and the college's commitment to important aspects, such as safeguarding arrangements.
- The rural nature of the area means that the school further ensures attendance and safety of students by transporting them to and from the college. This drives the costs up and limits the number of places available. The school is therefore seeking to develop its in-house curriculum so that similar provision becomes available for more of the students.

### **Monitoring, evaluation and support**

- Monitoring is rigorous and effective. Close communication between the college and the school ensures that all concerned know the students and their individual needs very well.
- A member of the school staff accompanies the students each week which enables close monitoring of attendance and helps the school and college to act quickly should problems arise.
- Regular and comprehensive reviews of students' progress result in specific support being allocated where necessary. Timetables are amended to help students keep up with their school work, particularly in the key skills.
- Although the school has good-quality assessment information, they have not fully evaluated this group's progress over time against their starting points.

I hope that this visit has been useful in the further development of this aspect of the school's work.

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. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

**Sheena MacDonald**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**