

7 January 2010

Mr T Downing  
Caroline Chisholm School  
Wooldale Road  
Wootton Fields  
Northampton  
NN4 6TP

Dear Mr Downing

### **Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey: good practice in value for money in schools**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 2 November 2010 to look at work in your school.

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: meetings with school leaders and managers, a local authority officer and students; analysis of documents including budgetary information, self-evaluations and improvement plans; and observation of the school at work.

#### **Features of good practice**

- The school has been quick to build upon the opportunities arising from being an all-through school. Teaching and learning throughout the school have benefited from the sharing of expertise that is present in each key stage.
- The experience and expertise of the business manager ensure that the school succeeds in getting best value for money when buying in services and resources. This enables the school to sustain and develop the provision for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, graded 'outstanding' at its previous inspection, and the very strong curriculum enrichment programme.
- The school's business and enterprise specialism influences the whole curriculum and contributes very significantly to the pupils' personal development as it promotes leadership qualities in both the primary and secondary phases.

- The school's innovative practice and commitment to sustainability are successfully promoting energy conservation in the school and throughout the local authority.

### **Areas for development**

- Improving monitoring of the cost effectiveness of resources targeted towards school priorities, including support for target groups and individuals.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop 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

**Anthony O'Malley**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**