

Aviation House  
126 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231  
F 020 7421 6855  
[enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)



11 February 2011

Mrs W Heslop  
Headteacher  
Cramlington Learning Village  
Highburn  
Northumberland  
NE23 6BN

Dear Mrs Heslop

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

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 19 January 2011 to look at work in achieving good value for money in schools.

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: discussions with staff and students; short visits to lessons, staff training events and other activities; as well as scrutiny of school documentation.

**Features of good practice**

- The school is absolutely clear about its view of good teaching and learning and this is shared and understood well by staff and students. This is well supported through a brilliant staff professional development and enquiry programme which is delivered internally and very cost effectively.
- Staff are very consistent in how they promote learning across the subjects; students understand clearly what is expected of them and the learning choices they have to make.
- Thus, they usually learn rapidly, independently and powerfully.
- Well-organised large teaching spaces enable the varied approaches to learning, envisaged by the school, to thrive.

- The leadership provided by you and your senior team is very clear and well focused. As a result, staff know how they can contribute and achieve good career development within the school.
- The school's excellent website provides exceptionally cost-effective approaches to individualised and personalised learning which students use constantly.
- The curriculum is very motivating and planned efficiently in all year groups. More choices and varied activities are offered than might be expected given the school's resources, which are managed very effectively. The sixth form subject offer is appropriate, challenging and very broad.

### **Areas for development**

- Developing precise links between the well-structured approaches to strategic financial management and the school improvement plan and student outcomes.
- Considering further increasing the amount of cost-effective learning outside the classroom across the curriculum.

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 sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

**Robin Hammerton**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**