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Mr P Hannan
Principal
Hadlow College
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Dear Mr Hannan

Ofsted 2010–11 best practice survey: safeguarding in colleges

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 30 September 2010 to look at your provision for safeguarding students.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our publication about best practice in safeguarding in colleges. The publication will include case studies about individual providers. If Hadlow College is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment on the text before publication. Individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

Features of good practice:

- The college has a well-embedded culture of prioritising safeguarding as part of a high emphasis on students' personal and social development, which is promoted effectively at all levels and endorsed by governors. Teachers focus strongly on extending students' learning about how to live safely thus empowering students to take responsibility for their actions.
- Risk is assessed carefully and thoroughly, including the many high-risk activities associated with land-based studies, across the wide range of activities in the college. Safeguards, put in place to promote students' safety and well-being, are consistently reinforced. Students' knowledge of safety is enhanced by their full involvement in the risk assessment process.
- Safety in working practices is endorsed at every opportunity, including in lessons and in practical work on the college's land-based units, such as the

farm and the animal care unit. Recording and analysis of accidents is used to inform risk management effectively.

- Policies are in place to underpin the college's approach to sound safeguarding and are used well to promote good practice. Policies are comprehensive in their coverage and reviewed frequently.
- Students learn about safeguarding highly effectively from a wide range of sources, including tutorials, a range of well-produced and sharply focused supporting literature and induction activities.
- Residential students' safety is given high priority. Security across residential sites is high. A team of wardens supervise students round the clock as well as provide considerable advice and support in developing their safety awareness.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop safeguarding in the college.

As explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next college inspection.

Yours sincerely

Pippa Francis
Her Majesty's Inspector