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Mrs C Hassell  
Headteacher  
The Chafford School, A Specialist  
Business and Enterprise College  
Lambs Lane South  
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RM13 9XD

Dear Mrs Hassell

**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 24 March 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 two groups of students and staff with responsibility for managing or delivering aspects of the PSHE curriculum; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of students' work; and observation of four lessons, one assembly, two workshop sessions by visiting speakers, social spaces at break times, the dining hall and lunchtime arrangements.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE education is outstanding.

**Achievement in PSHE education**

Achievement in PSHE education is outstanding.

- Students' knowledge of sex and relationships and drugs education is outstanding. They are confident to make the right decisions and resist peer-group pressure.
- Students develop confidence and self-esteem through the wide range of opportunities they have to mentor others and to lead teaching and tutor group sessions.
- They develop good resilience and perseverance to work hard and succeed through the encouragement the school provides.

- Students' social skills are good. Students get on well with each other during break and lunchtimes around the school. Current dining arrangements do not support students enough to further develop social interaction.
- Those students whose circumstances make them vulnerable are quickly identified and supported well to allow them to catch up, overcome their specific difficulties and become high achievers.

### **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 resources and teaching strategies is used, such as practical activities, role play, the interactive whiteboard and video footage.
- The pace of teaching is brisk. Secure relationships and good teacher subject knowledge enrich the learning experience. PSHE lessons are fun.
- In the best lessons, teachers ask challenging questions and allow students to lead parts of the lesson.
- In the few less successful lessons, the pace of learning is slow and the learning objectives are not made sufficiently clear to students.
- Assessment is used regularly to inform progress in PSHE and measure outcomes.

### **Quality of the curriculum in PSHE education**

The quality of the curriculum in PSHE education is outstanding.

- The scheme of work is well mapped throughout the school and teaching resources are easily accessible to staff on the school intranet.
- The taught curriculum encourages staff to develop creative cross-curricular opportunities in PSHE lessons.
- The wider curriculum ensures that students develop other key skills such as leadership, mentoring and empathy through charity work and working with younger children in partner primary schools.
- A wide range of external speakers is used to augment the PSHE curriculum both in school and through the well-planned trips and visits to cultural events. Students appreciate the expert knowledge that visitors add to the curriculum, such as Holocaust survivors, the local police, teenage mothers, and relationship counsellors.
- Careers and work experience are well planned into the curriculum and provide real opportunities for students to experience the world of work.

## **Effectiveness of leadership and management in PSHE education**

Leadership and management in PSHE education are outstanding.

- PSHE education is high profile in the school and is well supported by you and senior staff.
- The head of department has ensured that all staff are well supported to deliver the PSHE curriculum. Appropriate training is provided for new and less confident staff.
- The school is very accurate in its self-evaluation of the overall effectiveness of PSHE education.
- External speakers and support for vulnerable groups are well brokered by the school to ensure that students develop appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding.

### **Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:**

- ensuring that learning objectives for PSHE lessons are clear in teachers' planning and made explicit to students throughout all lessons
- improving the dining arrangements to enable students to further develop their social skills.

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**