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20 April 2011

Mr J Hayles  
Deputy Principal  
South Essex College of Further and Higher Education  
Southend Campus  
Luker Road  
Southend on Sea  
SS1 1ND

Dear Mr Hayles

**Ofsted 2011–12 good practice survey inspection programme:  
improving science in colleges**

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and learners, during my visit on 7 and 8 April 2011 as part of our survey of science.

This was a short survey visit, providing valuable information which will contribute to a national report. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributors or contributing institutions but individuals and institutions will not be identified in the main text without your consent.

The evidence base included: meetings with senior and curriculum managers, science staff and learners; and a tour of your science facilities.

**Features of good practice**

- Comprehensive curriculum planning has led to the development of a broad range of science provision.
- The progression of vocational learners is good.
- The well-organised and effective staff training helps them to update their subject knowledge and further develop their teaching skills.
- Learners write and produce a high-quality monthly science magazine.

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

- making more effective use of the science laboratories at the Southend and Basildon campuses.

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

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to the relevant funding bodies and will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Noonan**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**