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Mr K Watson
Principal
Leyton Sixth Form College
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Dear Mr Watson

Ofsted 2011–12 survey inspection programme: supporting college students to progress and achieve

Thank you for your warm welcome and cooperation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit on 23 and 24 January 2012 to look at your work in supporting students.

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

The evidence used to inform the judgements included scrutiny of documentation; observation of tutorials and workshops; and meetings with senior managers, teachers, support staff and students.

Key findings

- Senior managers have a reflective and considered approach when developing procedures for supporting students that is communicated to staff well.
- Tutors have a strong focus on monitoring the academic progress of students through regular individual meetings that are well informed by information from teachers.
- Students greatly appreciate the advocacy role played by tutors to ensure that each student receives the appropriate degree of support.
- Successful professional development for all college staff, including support staff, entails individuals working on specific issues of interest, many of which improve the support provided for students.

- A broad range of enrichment activities provides students with many opportunities to develop skills and experience in areas unrelated to their studies.
- Students who are applying for university receive highly effective support.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- ensuring that students' individual targets are specific, measurable and further develop procedures that monitor the quality and relevance of these targets.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop supporting college students at Leyton Sixth Form College.

As 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. A copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Tony Noonan
Her Majesty's Inspector