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Mr J Mathews  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mr Mathews

Ofsted survey inspection programme – ICT

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 28-29 September to look at work in ICT.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of ICT, the visit had a particular focus on the assessment of ICT and the readiness of the school for the onscreen Key Stage 3 ICT test.

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. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and pupils, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of pupils' work and observation of lessons.

The overall effectiveness of ICT was judged to be satisfactory.

Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards in ICT are satisfactory.

- Standards in ICT are above average. Pupils' progress is satisfactory and by the end of Year 10, pupils are capable and confident users of ICT.
- The development of pupils' ICT capability is inconsistent after Year 10 and relies on the expertise of their individual subject teachers.

- Pupils work hard and behave well in ICT. They especially like exploring new software applications and work well together.

### Quality of teaching and learning of ICT

The quality of teaching and learning in ICT is satisfactory.

- Teachers have a good knowledge of the subject and pupils find many of the activities exciting. Occasionally however, there is too much emphasis on what the teacher is doing rather than what the pupils are learning.
- Good use is made of the support provided by the ICT technical staff.
- Tasks are not well matched to the needs of all pupils. Activities do not always extend the most able pupils.

### Quality of curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is satisfactory.

- Pupils enjoy using the new Virtual Learning Environment which is enabling them to access good quality learning materials from home. They are given many opportunities to be creative in their use of ICT in subjects such as science, music and mathematics.
- Teachers from across the school are beginning to integrate ICT into their lessons to enable pupils to apply their ICT capability in new contexts. However, teachers do not always consider how ICT can be used effectively to improve pupils' learning.

### Leadership and management of ICT

Leadership of ICT is good.

- The Director of ICT, along with the Assistant Head, provides good leadership and has helped the school to make considerable progress with ICT developments in recent years. There is a clear vision for bringing about improvement. The school provides good quality in house CPD on the use of ICT. Its work is benefiting local schools.

Management of ICT is satisfactory.

- Whilst the school has a generally accurate picture of standards and the progress of pupils within discrete ICT provision, there is only limited monitoring of pupils' ICT experiences and performance across the school.

## Assessment of ICT and the readiness of the school for the onscreen Key Stage 3 ICT test

Assessment is good.

- The frequent assessments made give teachers a clear overview of an individual pupil's progress and that of the whole class.
- The school is well prepared for the onscreen Key Stage 3 ICT test. However, the school was disappointed with this year's results with many pupils achieving at least one level lower than predicted.

## Inclusion

All pupils benefit from opportunities to use the school's computers outside of lesson times. This ensures that none are disadvantaged when completing homework or research. More able pupils do not always make the same progress as other pupils because the curriculum restricts their progress.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- to provide more challenge for the most able pupils
- to review the curriculum model and monitor pupils' ICT experiences across the curriculum
- to review how ICT can be used to improve pupils' learning and not just as a teaching tool.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop ICT in the school.

As I explained in my previous letter, 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

David Cox  
Additional Inspector