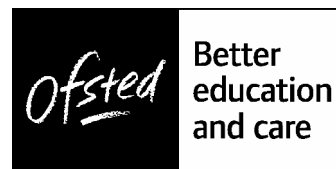


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28 September 2006

Mr Nokes
Headteacher
John Hampden Grammar School
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Dear Mr Nokes

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Business Education

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 27-28 September 2006 to look at work in business education.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on economic and business understanding and financial capability for all students.

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. 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 students, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of students' work and observation of six lessons.

The overall effectiveness of business education was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

In the examination subjects provided in business education students' achievement is outstanding.

- Examination results are very high. Students reach and often exceed their expected grades.
- Students show extremely good attitudes to learning and were very well motivated in the lessons observed. They do very well in subject related competitions.

Quality of teaching and learning of business education

The quality of teaching and learning in business education is outstanding.

- Students benefit from teachers' expert knowledge and their use of relevant and interesting examples drawn from the real world. Teaching is consistently of a very high standard.
- Teachers deploy a wide range of teaching and learning styles, including teacher led discussion, group work and presentations. Computers are used very effectively, both for web-based research and for student and group presentations.
- Students feel very well supported and are made aware of how to improve their work through helpful written comments and oral feedback. Guidance for students is excellent.
- A variety of competitions, visits and speakers connect the subjects to the real world.

Quality of curriculum

The quality of the curriculum in business education is good.

- Courses in Key Stage 4 and in the sixth form are popular and appropriately matched to the ability and interest of students.
- There is very good provision for enterprise with progression through each year. The monitoring of learning outcomes is at an early stage of development.

Leadership and management of business education

The leadership and management of business education are outstanding.

- There is excellent monitoring and self evaluation within the department
- Courses are very well structured and the strengths of the well qualified staff complement each other. Resources are good, although GCSE business classes lack a base room.
- In the main school the management of the wider development of business education has been strengthened considerably by the inclusion of enterprise in the business department. There has been increased provision and the monitoring of the impact of this on students' learning is now being developed.

Subject issue Personal Finance Education

Provision is good.

- Students have good awareness of personal finance issues. They have done interesting and valuable work in personal and social education

and in mathematics. However, there is not yet a coherent programme which covers all aspects of personal finance education.

Inclusion

- The learning experiences of students in the main school are only now beginning to be audited to ensure that they all get their full entitlement to the broad range of economic, business and financial education.
- A varied range of teaching and learning styles is deployed to meet the needs of different learners.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- develop greater coherence in the programme for economic and business understanding and enterprise education and define the learning outcomes expected at each key stage
- integrate work experience into the curriculum more effectively.

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

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority/Local Learning and Skills Council and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Lyons
Her Majesty's Inspector