

12 February 2007

Mr D Adelman
Principal
Godalming College
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Dear Mr Adelman

Ofsted Subject and Survey Inspection Programme 2006-07

Sector Subject Area 15: Business, Administration and Law

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my visit on 30 and 31 January. I am particularly grateful to managers and teaching staff for all their hard work in preparing the programme and background documentation and for giving up their time during the visit. I enjoyed meeting your students, please pass on my thanks to them also for giving up their time to talk to me.

The visit provided much useful evidence for the good practice survey in business and administration. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but should we wish to cite specific aspects of practice we will contact the college first.

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

I agreed to provide a summary of my observations of good practice seen in business and law and to suggest some areas for development.

Good practice observed

- Pass rates in GCE business studies and applied business are outstanding. Retention rates on GCE courses are significantly above national averages. Value added data indicate that students make very good progress.
- Teachers have very good subject knowledge. Teaching and learning are consistently good. Relationships between students and teachers are excellent and encourage a very positive attitude to learning.

- Support for students is outstanding. Students find teachers accessible and very responsive to requests for help. Students' progress is closely monitored and they receive excellent feedback on their written work. Students particularly value the frequent individual discussions they have with their teachers to review progress and look at ways of improving their work.
- The department is well led and managed. Self assessment accurately identifies strengths and weaknesses which takes account of the views of students. The professional development of teachers is particularly strong, both through provision within the department and through external courses and contact with other colleges. The department works very effectively as a team and there is a strong emphasis on sharing good practice in teaching and learning. Accommodation and resources are excellent.

Areas for development, which we discussed, included:

- increase the opportunities within courses for students to have direct contact with employers and local businesses
- develop ways, particularly in GCE business studies, to more actively engage students in lessons
- increase the range of enrichment activities in business education, for example through visiting speakers, involvement in business competitions and opportunities to take part in enterprise activities.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop business courses in the college.

As I explained in my previous letter, a copy of this letter will be sent to your LLSC and will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of the half-term following the inspection. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

David Butler
Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools