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Ms A Clynch
Principal
Loreto Sixth Form College
Chichester Road
Hulme
Manchester
MP15 5PB

Dear Ms Clynch

Ofsted survey inspection programme – a comparison of the effectiveness of post 16 providers

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 09 October to look at work in level 3 provision.

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 students, scrutiny of relevant documentation, and brief visits to six lessons.

The overall effectiveness of level 3 provision was judged to be outstanding.

Achievement and standards

Standards are above national averages and well above average for similar colleges. The achievement of students, including their personal development, is excellent. Students are highly motivated.

Quality of teaching and learning, including academic guidance

The quality of teaching and learning, including academic guidance is outstanding. Support for students is very strong. The coordination of academic and pastoral support is very good. Highly effective processes for monitoring students' progress, grounded in excellent use of data, result in teaching and support that are adapted well to meet their needs.

Quality of curriculum

The quality of the curriculum is outstanding. The curriculum is being broadened progressively to allow the college to continue its mission to engage a wider group of young people. It is responding very well to changes evident in partner secondary schools. It is enhanced significantly by very effective study support for those who need it and a wide range of enrichment activities, greatly appreciated by the students. Individual interests are met well and the students are inspired by what the college offers.

Leadership and management

Leadership and management are outstanding. Senior leaders have been singularly effective in conveying a clear sense of ethos and mission to all, including students. This has resulted in remarkably consistent commitment and action amongst the staff at all levels and a very strong sense of community and team spirit.

Inclusion

This is a highly inclusive college. Students from a very wide range of backgrounds mix extremely well and are enabled to reach high levels of achievement.

Areas for improvement

There were no significant areas for improvement discussed.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop level 3 provision in the college.

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

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss
Her Majesty's Inspector