

01 October 2007

Mr Mark Woodlock
Headteacher
Coombe Dean School
Charnhill Way
Elburton
Plymouth
PL9 8ES

Dear Mr Woodlock

Ofsted survey inspection programme – 14-19 reforms

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and students during my visit on 25 September 2007 as part of our survey on 14-19 developments in the local area.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. This report, which will be produced in the summer of 2008, will highlight good practice and identify improvements to be made. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text.

Coombe Dean School demonstrates its commitment to the development of the 14-19 curriculum in the following ways:

- Its strategies set a very clear direction.
- Overall achievement of learners is good at Key Stage 4 and in the sixth form.
- Standards are good at Key Stage 4 and average at Key Stage 5.
- The curriculum is good, exploiting the school's specialist status well.
- Inclusion is good.
- Learners' programmes and pathways are developed in response to their changing needs.
- Retention rates are high and there is good progression to higher education.

Areas identified for further development are:

- ensuring that all learners are fully aware of the way courses will be delivered across different partnership providers
- ensuring that all learners receive consistently good care and guidance during Years 12 and 13.

- If there are any points or aspects of the visit you wish to discuss, please get in touch. As we will be evaluating the survey, you may be contacted in the future to find out your views. I hope you will contribute to this evaluation. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn Carnaghan
Additional Inspector