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17 December 2007

Ms Theodora Nickson
Headteacher
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Dear Ms Nickson

Ofsted subject survey: identifying good practice in citizenship

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 11 December 2007 to look at aspects of citizenship, in particular, the development of assessment and pupils' attitudes towards the subject.

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.

Features of good practice observed

- There is a clear and coherent school approach towards the development of assessment in citizenship with a secure understanding of the associated issues.
- The school displays a commitment to develop the skills and processes and the active nature of citizenship and ensure that assessment procedures appropriately reflect these. The senior subject leader is committed to providing assessment feedback that is motivating and encouraging to pupils. Pupils indicate that they receive helpful feedback, both written and verbal in citizenship. This enables them to extend their thinking and contributions in lessons and improve their written assignments.
- Students, particularly in the sixth form, make excellent contributions to support other pupils in the school and in the wider community, which firmly demonstrate citizenship in action and enable pupils and students to exercise initiative in putting principles into practice. The wide range of activities that sixth form students undertake contributes well to the strong sense of community evident within the school.

- Pupils demonstrate good understanding of the citizenship curriculum. They are able to identify how they can participate and take responsible action, within school and in the community. They express informed opinions about the subject matter and offer mature and thoughtful responses about citizenship, its place and importance in the curriculum and its relevance to their lives. As they progress through the school, they demonstrate growing awareness of the links with other subjects. In particular, students in the sixth form demonstrate good understanding of the significance and relevance of aspects of citizenship across the wider curriculum.

Areas for development

- We discussed the potential of greater use of feedback from pupils and students on matters relating to teaching and learning, in citizenship and across the curriculum.

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

Yours sincerely

Judith Matharu
Her Majesty's Inspector