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Mr Graham Wilkinson
Principal
Kendal College
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Dear Mr Wilkinson

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 28 November 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.

Kendal College is committed to working in partnership with providers and has taken the lead in the young apprentice initiatives in the area. The college offers a good range vocational of courses that enhance choices for young people in Key Stage 4 and post 16. However, some young people cannot access vocational courses in Key Stage 4 due to timetable clashes. A very effective skills assessment and selection system has been developed jointly by college and school staff at a joint staff development event.

Students achieve well and their personal development is very good. Progression from vocational courses for pupils aged 14 to 16 onto full-time vocational programmes at 16 is very good. However, in the South Lakes Federation there is insufficient promotion and use of the on-line prospectus to facilitate impartial advice and guidance for all pupils.

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

Bev Barlow
Her Majesty's Inspector