

25 March 2008

Mr R Campbell
Principal
Impington Village College
New Road
Impington
Cambridge
CB4 9LX

Dear Mr Campbell

Ofsted subject survey: identifying good practice in business and economics education

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit to look at work in economics on the International Baccalaureate programme.

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.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: visits to lessons, discussions with students and staff, review of documentation and students' work.

Features of good practice observed:

- the interesting and challenging learning experience provided by the economics component of the International Baccalaureate
- students' attainment in economics, which is better than the international average for this subject in the International Baccalaureate
- the very good level of understanding and awareness of economic issues demonstrated by students
- students' outstanding personal development as shown in their exceptional attitudes to learning, their willingness to contribute, their mature and challenging questioning and their thoughtful and reflective approach to their studies
- the intensely interesting economics learning environment that is created as a result of the international mix of students

- the committed and enthusiastic teaching, that is well-informed and sensitive to the background of this diverse international group of students
- the support and guidance provided to students
- the very good application of knowledge and understanding that is evident in students' work and the excellent demonstration of the higher level skills of analysis and evaluation seen in the portfolio tasks and extended essays.

Area for development that we discussed:

- the quality of questioning in order to assess students' understanding.

I hope these observations are useful.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority/Local Learning and Skills Council and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Gwen Coates
Her Majesty's Inspector