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Mrs C Donovan  
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Dear Mrs Donovan

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Personal, Social and health Education (PSHE)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 03 and 04 April to look at work in PSHE.

As outlined in my initial letter, as well as looking at key areas of the subject, the visit had a particular focus on;

- how the PSHE curriculum meets the specific needs of pupils in your local area, and how progress is tracked and assessed; and
- the contribution made by PSHE to the future economic well-being of your pupils.

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 yourself and the chief executive for the federation of schools, the director of personal development, the sixth form leader, groups of students from Years 9, 11 and the sixth form, scrutiny of relevant documentation, analysis of students' work and observation of four lessons.

The overall effectiveness of PSHE was judged to be outstanding.

## Achievement

Achievement in PSHE is outstanding.

- Students have a good knowledge of a balanced diet and the need for healthy exercise.
- Students have a good knowledge of sexual health risks and the dangers of drugs, including alcohol and tobacco. Their knowledge of where to get help is very good.
- Older students have an outstanding knowledge and understanding of the information included in their careers education.
- Students' self-confidence is outstanding; they readily express their opinions and work together as team members.
- Students' ability to discuss and reflect on issues is exemplary.
- Students listen to each other, respect the views of others and reach consensus when there is disagreement.
- Older students, particularly the sixth form, enthusiastically undertake responsibilities and respond positively to 'more adult treatment'.
- Students' knowledge and understanding of mental health issues is less well developed.
- Although students have some understanding of managing their money, their overall financial capability is insufficiently developed.

## Quality of teaching and learning in PSHE

The quality of PSHE teaching is good.

- The PSHE teachers are a dedicated team of specialists who are well trained and who all have a passion for teaching PSHE.
- Relationships between teachers and students are outstanding and students are enthusiastic about learning PSHE.
- Students' behaviour is managed well and students know their PSHE teachers expect much from them.
- Teachers use information and communication technology effectively.
- Generally, a brisk pace is maintained in PSHE lessons, although in one lesson some students lost some concentration because they had to listen for too long.
- Teachers' assessments of students enable lessons to be planned more effectively, but it is not sufficiently regular to show progress or shared with students so they know how to improve.

## Quality of the curriculum

The curriculum is outstanding.

- The Healthy Schools and Activemark Awards have had a positive influence on the PSHE curriculum.
- The curriculum meets the needs of the students extremely well. It ensures that they are well informed, are able to practise their skills and are stimulated by interesting and relevant activities, such as The Real Game and the Motivation Lectures.

- There is a wide range of agencies, both in and out of school, that provide outstanding information, advice and guidance related to PSHE. Students have complete confidence in the college's ability to help them.
- Students in the sixth form do not study a discrete PSHE lesson, but they do cover a wide range of PSHE topics, mainly through general studies.

## Leadership and management of PSHE

The leadership and management of PSHE are outstanding.

- The experienced and enthusiastic director for PSHE provides an outstanding role model, particularly through her teaching.
- The ethos of the school is exceptionally supportive and positive.
- Students generally feel motivated and develop their confidence through the many responsibilities and opportunities to demonstrate what they can do, for example, performances of drama and music in schools in several different countries.
- The monitoring of PSHE is regular, but it does not always identify and follow-up specific areas for the further development of teaching.

Subject issue: how well are students prepared for future economic well-being?

Students are well prepared for adult life.

- Students from Year 7 learn about the world of work through regular careers education, enterprise opportunities and some personal finance, although the latter area is not fully developed.

## Inclusion

Inclusion is outstanding.

- Students' differing needs are met well in most of the lessons seen.
- The international dimension of the college is a very good preparation for life in a multi-cultural society.
- Innovative approaches to motivate and improve behaviour help maintain students' interest and desire to learn.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- developing more assessment tasks for PSHE.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Sue Orpin  
Additional Inspector