

Alexandra House  
33 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040  
F 020 7421 6855  
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)



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Ms R Allard  
Headteacher  
The Greycoat Hospital School  
Greycoat Place  
London  
SW1P 2DY

Dear Ms Allard

Ofsted subject survey: good practice in English

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 14 May to look at work in English.

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: discussions with several members of staff and students from different key stages, and scrutiny of documentation and students' work.

Features of good practice observed

- Students respond very positively to work in English, praising teachers' enthusiasm, their commitment and support, and the varied and engaging activities in lessons.
- The department is very successful at promoting students' wider, independent reading. Teachers are themselves passionate about reading and build time for independent reading and discussion about books and authors into lessons. This is well supported by the school librarian and has a positive impact on students' reading outside school.
- The curriculum for English is significantly strengthened and enriched by a wide range of activities provided by teachers beyond lessons. This includes the Creative Writing, reading and drama clubs, the school newspaper, public speaking and debates, numerous theatre visits, and regular and high profile school productions.
- The curriculum provides good opportunities for students' extended writing. This covers a wide range of genres but focuses especially on imaginative forms which motivate students well and lead to much high quality work.

- The samples of marking provided included much that was highly effective in giving students detailed and personal feedback about their work, with clear and specific guidance on areas for improvement.
- The department is very well led. The head of department is knowledgeable and enthusiastic; she provides a clear sense of direction for English in the school. This has helped to produce a coherent and closely knit team of teachers who work well together and routinely share ideas and resources.

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

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

Yours sincerely

Philip Jarrett HMI  
Subject Adviser for English