

04 November 2008

Mr S Cefai
Headteacher
Sacred Heart Roman Catholic School
Camberwell New Road
London
SE5 0RP

Dear Mr Cefai

Ofsted survey inspection programme: business and enterprise education

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit on 13 October to look at work in business and enterprise education.

As outlined in my initial letter, as the school does not currently provide examination courses in business, the visit focussed on the provision the school is making to develop students' economic and business understanding, financial capability and skills for future employment.

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.

The visit included interviews with yourself, staff and students and a scrutiny of a range of documentation.

Features of good practice observed

- Students have good opportunities to develop their enterprise skills through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. These include for example, enterprise days for whole year groups, events to raise funds for charities and a range of projects which allow students to take responsibility and show initiative. Students spoke enthusiastically about these events and activities and felt they had been beneficial in improving their employment skills.
- Older students demonstrated a reasonable understanding of basic economics and personal finance. Year 11 students spoke highly of the 'Speakers' Bank' project that helped them develop their presentational skills as well as their financial understanding.
- The strong provision and take-up of vocational and applied courses in Years 10 and 11.
- A good programme of work experience and careers education that helps to foster students' skills for employment and understanding of business.

- A good range of links with businesses and employers.
- Having a member of staff with overall responsibility for work-related learning, including enterprise education.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- ensuring greater coherence in the programme for enterprise and business education, including the development of enterprise skills and financial capability
- identifying and assessing the skills, knowledge and understanding students are expected to attain in this area of the curriculum as they move through the school
- making further use of the opportunities already available in the school, for example, through school productions and charity work, to extend students' economic and business understanding
- implementing more fully the new programme of study for economic well-being and financial capability in Key Stage 3.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop the provision for business and enterprise education in your 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

David Butler
Her Majesty's Inspector