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Dr C Hickey
Headteacher
St Thomas More Catholic School
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Dear Dr Hickey

Ofsted survey inspection programme: the extent and quality of provision for pupils from day 6 of exclusion

Thank you for meeting with me on Thursday 9 October 2008 so that I could hear about the work of your school and the Pupil Support Centre (PSC) in relation to the extent and quality of provision for pupils from day 6 of exclusion.

The meeting was very useful because you were able to describe and evaluate the role of the PSC in its work with four of your pupils and to let me know the many ways in which you are improving the management of behaviour within your school.

My visit to the Pupil Support Centre confirmed that it meets the regulations to provide a full-time education for pupils excluded from school, for a fixed term and permanently, six days after their exclusion. The partnership of secondary headteachers, with the local authority, has decided to provide both for fixed term and permanent exclusions, in the same institution, and the result has been positive. The centre is well managed, and there are ambitious plans further to extend its usefulness, as a centre for the management and improvement of behaviour, in the borough. The pupils placed there from your school have made satisfactory progress when there, and it is commendable - for school and centre - that they have not so far been further excluded from school.

You were also most helpful in describing what the school had done to reduce the need to exclude pupils on a fixed-term basis for more than five days. These things included:

- the introduction of a new behaviour policy which is well known to your students;
- the creation of a sanctuary room, which can be used for students showing behaviour unsuitable for the classroom;

- the school's own exclusion room, for students who might otherwise have been excluded from school;
- the very extensive range of activities in the school's own programme, 'Leaders in Training', the Basketball Academy and the Arts Award programme, which together involve and challenge the majority of students, and give them new purpose and interest.

This very extensive programme has played a significant part in decreasing exclusion and promoting inclusion in your school. Attendance and examination results have risen strongly as these measures have been introduced.

The visit will provide much useful evidence for our survey. Thank you once again for your co-operation in helping me gain an insight into the work of your school and the PSC.

St Thomas More Catholic School will not be named in any publication without your permission. Most evidence will be used at a general level to ascertain if schools and local authorities are complying with legislation and to identify the quality and extent of their provision.

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

Martin Pavey
Additional Inspector