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Ms R Leeke
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Dear Ms Leeke

Ofsted Thematic Survey Programme 2008-09

Social Responsibility and Community Cohesion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my recent visit with my colleague Nada Trikic HMI. We are particularly grateful to you and all your staff for the hard work involved in preparing for the visit and for giving up your time during the visit to meet us. Please pass on our thanks to all those concerned, including your students.

The visit provided much useful evidence for the further development of community cohesion. We noted, in particular:

- Leaders at all levels know their students, and the communities from which they are drawn, very well. There is a strong focus on high aspirations and achievement for all, be they established or new arrivals in the school.
- The school's rich curriculum offers opportunities to work together, to be creative and to share learning with the wider community, e.g. working with older people on an arts project.
- Teachers use listening and speaking tasks well to give students confidence and bring diverse groups together. They support very sophisticated year and college councils which introduce students early to the complexities of the democratic process. They involve students in developing teaching and learning in the school, e.g. through the Edge Instead process. The student voice is loud and clear and this is a real strength of the school's provision.
- Students are confident in their own identity, proud of their school and they contribute with enthusiasm to developments at school and community levels. Many students are also involved in national and international initiatives.

The published survey report will list the names of the contributing institutions in an appendix. Should we wish to cite specific aspects of the good practice observed on this visit in the form of a detailed case study, we will contact you first. We will notify you of the date of publication of the survey report when it is confirmed and provide you with details of any other arrangements to disseminate the survey's findings.

Yours sincerely

Anne Feltham
Her Majesty's Inspector