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Ms K Hartigan
Headteacher
Cardinal Pole Roman Catholic School
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Dear Ms Hartigan

Ofsted survey inspection programme – 14-19 reforms

Thank you for your co-operation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit to the Hackney Learning Centre to meet with students and staff from the school on 30 September 2008 as part of our survey on 14-19 developments in the local area.

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.

Overall, the contribution the school is making towards the implementation of the Creative and Media Diploma and functional skills by the consortium is good. I outline the main findings as bullet points below.

The main strengths are:

- well-designed scheme of work with a strong emphasis on inter-disciplinary activity that opens students' imaginations to creative possibilities
- enthusiastic and committed students drawn from a wide spectrum of ability and aptitude
- close integration and contextualisation of functional skills within initial assignments, mapped to English, mathematics and information communication technology (ICT) lessons in the main curriculum
- excellent use of the central Learning Centre resource to provide a quasi-professional environment for studying media.

Areas for further development:

- lack of opportunities for students to work with, or show work to students on the same course from other schools and colleges
- overcoming the reported reluctance of some parents to consider the benefits of the Diploma course in Years 10 and 11

If there are any points or aspects of the visit you wish to discuss, please get in touch. As we will be evaluating the survey, you may be contacted in the future to find out your views. I hope you will contribute to this evaluation. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely

Alan Marsh
Her Majesty's Inspector