

21 November 2008

Mr I Flintoff
Headteacher
Leiston Community High School
Seaward Avenue
Leiston
Suffolk
IP16 4BG

Dear Mr Flintoff

Ofsted survey inspection programme – 14-19 reforms

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and learners during my visit on 11 November 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.

Leiston Community High School has demonstrated a strong commitment to working productively with its partners, and is making a good contribution to 14-19 developments across the consortium, particularly through its support for the development of the North Suffolk Skills Centre. The school has taken a lead also in promoting improvements in information, advice and guidance for young people across the partnership and in drawing up protocols to ensure exam and assessment registration for students on Diploma courses.

Teaching on the engineering Diploma takes place at the North Suffolk Skills Centre. This provides a high quality environment and resources for the course. Teaching staff have strong engineering related backgrounds and experience. In lessons, most learners worked productively and independently. Assessment practices for level 1 and 2 are under-developed.

The school has taken full advantage of local opportunities to trial approaches to delivering functional skills. There are as yet, however, no links between this work and the engineering Diploma and no plans to indicate how the experimental approach adopted will support the development of a coherent approach to functional skills for the benefit of all students.

The school has a structured programme for providing information, advice and guidance (IAG) to students and has recently achieved the local standard for IAG. Adaptations were made specifically for students applying for the engineering Diploma, which provided them with additional one-to-one support.

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

Clive Moss
Her Majesty's Inspector