

01 December 2008

Mr S Grix  
Principal  
Mid-Kent College  
Maidstone Road  
Chatham  
ME5 9UQ

Dear Mr Grix

Ofsted survey inspection programme – 14-19 reforms

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit on 11 and 12 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.

Overall, the contribution the college 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:

- enthusiastic and committed students and staff
- imaginative and exploratory approaches to work, opening ideas and possibilities across disciplines within the visual arts field
- effective and realistic curriculum planning - specific to sites, local activity, staff expertise and interests
- good early exposure of students to professional practitioners and environments to stimulate work
- good emphasis on initial acquisition of technical and expressive skills to support students' creative explorations.

Areas for further development:

- ensuring students at level 3 have a fuller knowledge of their entire course structure, including the additional and specialist learning and the personal, thinking and learning skills elements of the Diploma
- improving the synthesis of the core vocational content of the Diploma at level 3 and the content and specific application of functional skills at level 2

- increasing enrolment on the Diploma and broadening the range of arts disciplines available to students.

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