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Mr A Reese
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Reese

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 12 November 2008 as part of our survey on 14-19 developments in the local area.

The visit provided valuable information about teaching, learning and the curriculum for functional skills, 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 Diploma development and functional skills by the consortium is good. I outline the main findings as bullet points below.

The main strengths are:

- good commitment to Diploma development and delivery
- good contextualisation of functional skills within mathematics to make this relevant for the students
- effective strategies for assessment and early intervention to prevent underachievement
- good formative marking of functional skills work in English to guide students as to realistic and achievable steps for improvement
- good intervention strategies to identify any potential underachievement in Diploma and functional skills work.

Areas for further development:

- continued implementation of the school's promotion of pupils' and students' independence in learning.

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

Michael Miller
Additional Inspector