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30 January 2009

Mr M O'Brien Vice Principal North Devon College Old Sticklepath Hill Barnstaple Devon EX31 2BQ

Dear Mr O'Brien

Ofsted Thematic Survey Programme 2008-09

Social Responsibility and Community Cohesion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during our recent visit. 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:

- College leaders' good knowledge of the many communities it serves, enabling them to plan and implement a curriculum and support to meet the needs and interests of all students.
- The involvement of students in the college's decision- making processes enable them to make a positive contribution to planning and quality improvement.
- The ethos of respect and tolerance supported by highly effective community partnership that enables all students to feel safe and supported to achieve their aspirations and academic potential.
- To maintain the inclusiveness and approaches to diversity of both colleges, as the merged college develops and implements strategic priorities and 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

Paul Fletcher Her Majesty's Inspector