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Mr D Sharratt  
Headteacher  
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Dear Mr Sharratt

Ofsted Thematic Survey Programme 2008-09

Social Responsibility and Community Cohesion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my recent visit. I am 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 me. Please pass on thanks to all those concerned, including your students.

The visit provided much useful evidence for the further development of community cohesion. I noted, in particular:

- Students are confident in their own identity and have a good sense of 'looking out for each other'. Older students teach and mentor younger ones. The school's vertical tutor-groups offer good opportunities for older students to act as good role models.
- The curriculum offers students good opportunities to work independently, collaboratively and creatively; good examples were seen in a thought-provoking assembly for Remembrance Day and in a Year 9 art lesson. There are increasing opportunities for students to contribute beyond the school, in local community initiatives and through international linking.
- School leaders know their communities well and use local features, such as the coastal area and armed services bases, very effectively to develop a sense of shared commitment amongst students and staff. Teachers' knowledge and confidence are developed through training partnerships with other local schools, sharing specialisms very effectively.

- Braunton School is well placed now to develop further students' contributions to the school and local communities, for example through improving the school council and increasing opportunities to work with older people. It should also audit good work underway on local and national linking.

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

Anne Feltham  
Her Majesty's Inspector