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Mr J Colquhoun
Headteacher
St Laurence School
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Dear Mr Colquhoun

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 04 February 2009 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:

- a flexibility of approach in timetable design to provide additional support for functional skills teaching and learning
- the ways in which the practical application of functional skills is helping to make students' GCSE work more relevant to them
- the responsible attitudes and enjoyment in learning being promoted in students through their creative and media Diploma work.

Areas for further development:

- the wider comparison and moderation of Diploma programmes and assessment, outside of the existing hub and partnership area, to ensure broader quality assurance with other partnerships across the authority as level 1 to level 3 pathways develop.

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