

20 March 2009

Mr D Kelly
Principal
Barrow-in-Furness Sixth Form College
Rating Lane
Barrow-in-Furness
LA13 9LE

Dear Mr Kelly

Ofsted survey inspection programme – 14-19 reforms

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and students, during my visits on 10 March 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 Society Health and Development (SHD) Diploma and functional skills is good. I outline the main findings as bullet points below.

The main strengths are:

- highly effective partnership working and commitment by the college to the implementation of the 14-19 Diplomas and the wider 14-19 agenda
- particularly good support from senior managers and the college Diploma team to build capacity across the area
- very good teaching and learning, with well planned lessons that provide high quality opportunities for learners to develop vocational knowledge and understanding
- good engagement and use of employers in the delivery of learning
- effective and well planned provision that is enabling learners to gain in maturity and confidence.

Areas for further development:

- continuing to work with partners in the local area to identify ways of ensuring the sustainability and planned expansion of the SHD Diploma

- work with the Connexions service to identify ways of recruiting more male students to the SHD Diploma.

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

Elaine Clinton
Her Majesty's Inspector