Alexandra House 33 Kingsway London WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040 F 020 7421 6855 www.ofsted.gov.uk



16 January 2009

Ms R Nixon Vice Principal Lambeth College 45 Clapham Common South Side London SW4 9BL

Dear Ms Nixon

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 grateful to you and all your colleagues for their work in preparing for the visit and for giving up time during the visit to meet me. Please pass on my thanks to all those concerned, including the principal, and of course the learners and staff that met with me. The visit provided much useful evidence for the further development of community cohesion. I noted, in particular:

Areas of good practice identified:

- The safe, harmonious and highly inclusive college ethos
- The strong focus on developing employability skills to improve the employment prospects of learners
- The highly effective multi-agency collaboration that improves the opportunities of vulnerable groups
- The good understanding among staff of the needs of the local community, including employers
- The broad range of English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) programmes, offered at suitable times and locations, that enhances the integration and citizenship of large numbers of learners
- Learners are well represented in the college and staff take their views seriously and act upon them appropriately.

Point for consideration identified:

 Some adult learners feel that enrichment activities should be more readily available to them.

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, you will be contacted first. You will be notified of the date of publication of the survey report when it is confirmed and you will be provided with details of any other arrangements to disseminate the survey's findings.

Yours sincerely

Tony Noonan Her Majesty's Inspector