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Ms R Silver
Principal
Lewisham College
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Dear Ms Silver

Ofsted Thematic Survey Programme 2008-09

Social Responsibility and Community Cohesion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my recent visit with my colleague Anne Feltham HMI. We are particularly grateful to your colleagues for the hard work involved in preparing for the visit and for giving up their time 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:

- Very strong support for the development of students' communication and advocacy skills through voice and influence activities
- Very effective support for the individual needs of more vulnerable students and of those at relatively early stages of learning English in developing their sense of belonging and shared values
- Innovative ways of identifying students and local community needs to ensure the College remains in touch with new and emerging needs
- Particularly good projects to engage young learners aged 14-16 to develop their social responsibility
- Good use of arts activities to promote awareness, and greater understanding, of contemporary issues
- In the future, the College should develop further approaches to promote tolerance of sexual orientation throughout the college and develop a wider range of measures to evaluate the impact of community cohesion 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

Fred Brown
Her Majesty's Inspector