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Mr Sugden
Headteacher
King James's School
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Dear Mr Sugden

Ofsted Best Practice visit – Information and communication technology (ICT)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit on 23 June 2009 to look at work in ICT. The visit had a particular focus on the use of mobile technologies.

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. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half-term.

- The use of mobile technologies is a success at King James's because of the leadership and management of it. Your coordinator for the use of mobile technologies is a qualified teacher but does not have a timetabled teaching commitment. This means that he has the time to support other members of staff when they are using mobile technologies. He also has the time to work out the most efficient and effective ways to use mobile technologies in school.
- You have placed plasma screens around the school. The students are able to send their own pictures to these to be displayed. The pictures can be of anything the students wish to see displayed about their lives outside school. This motivates the students and makes them feel more involved in the school.
- You also display school work. Examples include science experiments, videos of school shows and the school trips. Most of these pictures and video clips are produced by the students and they enjoy participating in this. The work displayed shows the students what they can aspire to. The students are fully aware of the checks which happen before the pictures are put onto the plasma screen and understand the simple, but effective, rules you have in place for pictures to be shown.
- All the students spoken to were motivated by the use of mobile technologies. They particularly enjoy using their mobile 'phones in

lessons to video work and then watch it back on either the plasma screens or the interactive whiteboards in the classrooms. All the students spoken to would welcome more opportunities to use mobile technologies in lessons.

- In the lessons observed the use of mobile technologies encouraged the students to think about what they had to say and how they were going to order their work. Most of the students used the mobile technologies very responsibly and the use of them encouraged the students to work in groups.
- The students are able to use mobile technologies in many lessons including ICT, PE, French, English, geography and science. In these lessons mobile technologies are supporting their learning and are having a positive effect on the motivation of the students. Plans are in place for how mobile technologies can support the learning of your IT Diploma students as they will be visiting other schools for some of their lessons. However the use of mobile technologies is not embedded in all areas of the school and some students, because of the groups they are in, have far fewer opportunities to use mobile technologies than others.

An area for development which we discussed:

- embedding the use of mobile technologies across the school so that students have more opportunities to use them.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop ICT in the school.

As I explained a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Tanya Harber Stuart
Her Majesty's Inspector