

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



26 October 2009

Mr H Bramwell
Vice-Principal
Burnley College
Princess Way
Burnley
Lancashire
BB12 0AN

Dear Mr Bramwell

Ofsted subject survey: good practice in literacy

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 8 October 2009 to look at work in literacy.

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 without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included two lesson observations; discussions with you, the assistant principal for 14–19 provision and two members of your senior management team; discussions with five managers and leaders, and four teaching and support staff; individual discussions with four learners or former learners and examination of some of your college documentation.

Features of good practice observed

- The college has a clear understanding of the very real barriers learners aged 16 to 18 and adults face in improving their literacy. Learners' development of literacy skills is therefore given a high profile throughout the college, ensuring that literacy or English is a core part of every course up to level 2.
- Specialist literacy tutors allocated to each division work well with vocational staff to identify learners' priorities for development at each stage of their course. Curriculum managers in each division are clear that teaching literacy forms part of the role of every member of teaching staff, not just literacy specialists.
- The college uses pre-course guidance and initial screening very effectively to promote literacy to all learners. The college is also effective in raising

the awareness of parents and employers to ensure that they understand the impact of low levels of literacy skills and the full range of literacy qualifications available.

- Specialist staff have good expertise in providing learners with a choice of methods and approaches to developing literacy skills. Learners' attainment is good.
- Learning resources are outstanding. Learners and staff make good use of excellent equipment in modern classrooms. Additional support resources provide learners with very good computer hardware and software that enable them to continue to develop their literacy skills as they work on their studies at home.

I did not identify any areas for development.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop literacy learning in the college.

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

Yours sincerely

Karen Adriaanse
Her Majesty's Inspector