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Mr P Patel
Headteacher
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Wood Green Road
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Dear Mr Patel

Ofsted 2009-10 survey inspection programme – Girls' and young women's achievement

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during our visit on 8 October 2009, to look at the causes of girls' and young women's underachievement and long-term economic well-being and the good practice that effectively supports them.

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 we used to inform the judgements made included: discussions with senior leaders and staff; observation of part of two lessons; discussions with three groups of girls and young women; feedback from local employers; and school documentation.

Overall, your work on promoting the achievement of girls and young women, and in developing their future economic well-being, is outstanding. The school has an excellent understanding of the diverse needs of students and an awareness of the barriers and challenges faced by young people and families in the local community. This knowledge is used very effectively to embed high quality personalised care and guidance to raise aspirations supported by innovative curriculum opportunities to challenge gender stereotypes, and robust systems to monitor progress.

Features of effective practice

- An exceptionally well-planned programme of careers education supported by local partnerships, targeted activities to challenge gender stereotypes and high quality resources.

- Outstanding achievement resulting from an ethos of high expectations and challenge within a safe, secure and supportive environment.
- Regular and rigorous monitoring of attendance, behaviour for learning and academic progress to inform personalised support strategies.

Area for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- evaluating the overall impact of careers education and guidance, personal, social and health education, and work-related learning on girls' and young women's knowledge, understanding and awareness of course choices and progression routes, and implications for their future economic well-being.
- considering an earlier focus on careers education to enable girls and young women to make greater use of work placements to extend their experiences of non-traditional careers.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to promote achievement and develop the economic well-being of girls and young women in the school.

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

Yours sincerely

Nada Trikić and Jan Lloyd
Her Majesty's Inspectors