

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



08 January 2010

Mrs B Greatorex
Headteacher
Wallington High School for Girls
Woodcote Road
Wallington
SM6 0PH

Dear Mrs Greatorex

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 my visit on 10 December 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 used to inform the judgements included: discussions with you and your staff; observation of parts of two lessons; discussions with two groups of girls and young women; and a review of 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 a particularly good understanding of the needs of girls and young women and supports them to achieve their full potential and progress to higher education. It effectively uses women role-models, especially previous students. The specialist engineering status expands the aspirations of girls and young women. Achievement and progress are outstanding, especially in mathematics and science.

Features of effective practice

- A broad and constantly changing curriculum reflects the needs of students and new opportunities in higher education and the world of work.
- The outstanding development and use of engineering options underpins the school's lead role status in the engineering diploma application.

- A comprehensive and effective monitoring system based on targets identifies underachievement in subjects and attitudes.
- A very comprehensive range of mentoring programmes meets individual support needs involving trained sixth formers, tutors and volunteer staff.
- A well-planned careers education programme introduces students to a wide range of opportunities with clear links from option choices to education and career pathways.

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 and will be published on the Ofsted website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Jan LLoyd
Her Majesty's Inspector