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Mrs J Dixon-Clegg
Director
The Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy
Avon Tyrell
Bransgore
Christchurch
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Dear Mrs Dixon-Clegg

Ofsted 2009-10 survey inspection programme: good practice in literacy

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 11 November 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 included interviews with senior staff, tutors and learners, two observations of literacy teaching, and supporting documentation provided by the college.

Features of good practice observed

- The very good understanding of the wider personal, social and educational barriers that learners face informs tutors' approach to literacy development well.
- The centre makes very effective use of the learners' interest in horses to motivate them and focus their development of literacy skills. The integration of the full range of literacy skills into centre activities and practical work is good.
- The centre makes good use of resources, including computers and the library, to engage learners' interest, build their confidence, and encourage independent learning in literacy.

Areas for development

- We discussed the need to continue to improve the use of target-setting in individual learning plans to reflect the range of literacy needs, and to further develop arrangements for monitoring and recording learners' progress in literacy.

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

Jan Smith
Her Majesty's Inspector