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Ms D Owen  
Headteacher  
Huntingdon Primary and Nursery School  
Alfred Street Central  
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Nottingham  
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Dear Ms Owen

Ofsted 2009-10 survey programme – Raising aspirations and achievement: the power of partnership

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit on 30 September 2009 to look at your partnership with higher education.

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 senior leaders and staff, telephone conversations with the Aspire project coordinator and representatives of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent Universities. I also watched an assembly, observed five lessons, spoke to pupils and parents and looked at documents, including project evaluations and pupils' work.

Features of good practice observed

- The school is highly effective in using partnerships with higher education, external organisations and the Aimhigher Aspire project to promote the learning and well-being of pupils. It works actively and collaboratively with partners to improve outcomes in aspects of education which the school and a large proportion of parents could not otherwise provide.
- The school ensures that partners provide high-quality experiences for pupils with wide-ranging individual needs. Visits outside the school and visitors to the school present a broader and suitably different view of the world to that of the pupils. Excellent examples are the involvement of photographers, dancers and artists to further pupils' creative learning and students from Nottingham Trent University who provide academic role models in the classroom.

- The outstanding quality of teaching and learning in the school and the excellent partnerships between adults and pupils are key factors in raising pupils' aspirations. Consistently high expectations of behaviour, challenging learning environments and carefully constructed dialogue encourage self-belief and foster the confidence pupils need to engage with the wider world.
- The school monitors and evaluates the impact of partnership on learning outcomes and identifies the most worthwhile in meeting the needs of the pupils and staff. By adopting a strategic approach and taking ownership of partnership projects, the school is able to maximise the impact on the curriculum and teaching and learning. Examples of effective practice include the 'Boys into Books' project, The Huntingdon Rangers, science initiatives and the introduction of philosophy.
- The school is very effective in making sure that the benefits of partnerships are sustainable. By adapting and developing the principles and practice of successful projects, this secures value for money and ensures that any future work focuses on the needs of the pupils. For example, the principles underpinning a highly successful 'Men at work' project and a project with Nottingham University's law students have been modified in school projects to reach more pupils.
- Leadership projects with Nottingham University, the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services and the Department for Children, Schools and Families have been used well to reflect on good practice and to develop and extend leadership roles across the school.

#### Areas for development

- Consider ways in which the outcomes of effective partnership working could be used to help pupils' transition to secondary education.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop partnerships in support of school improvement. As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Anne Wellham  
Her Majesty's Inspector