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Mr Cooke
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Cooke

Ofsted 2009-10 survey inspection 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 2 and 3 November 2009 to look at your partnership with schools.

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. All feedback letters will be published on the Ofsted website at the end of each half term.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included interviews with you, the subject leader for physical education, the Sports Partnership Coordinator and the Chair of Governors, and discussions with groups of pupils and parents/carers. I also observed two physical education lessons and a playleader training session. I looked at photographic evidence of your partnership work with a school in Italy, a local grammar school and primary schools involved in the mathematics masterclasses hosted at your school.

Features of good practice observed

- You have been at the forefront of partnership work for many years to enrich the quality of educational provision for pupils in your small school. As a result, well-established partnerships are in place; these are successfully enhancing aspects of the curriculum, most notably in Italian, mathematics, music, physical education and sport.
- The sports partnership work is of a high quality. Over the years, your visionary approach to forge strong links with a range of sporting clubs and professional coaches has contributed significantly to the school's established reputation for success in games and athletics.

- In recent years, as a result of a thriving sports partnership with a secondary school, the provision for physical education and sport has diversified considerably. The range of curriculum opportunities and clubs made available to the pupils is impressive. Pupils and parents/carers were unanimous in their praise for this high-quality provision. They reported that this is making a significant contribution to the pupils' enjoyment at school and their good personal development.
- The good teaching and learning I observed are fitting testaments to both the effective training staff receive from specialist teachers and the regular involvement of professional coaches in curriculum initiatives. In all lessons seen, pupils displayed high levels of motivation and made good progress.
- I note the annual programme of mathematics masterclasses, originally instigated by you many years ago in partnership with the Royal Institution and Reading University, is now a flourishing county initiative which continues to be held at your school. Similarly, for several years you have been successful in sustaining the effective partnership with Villa Sciarra in Frascati, to support the teaching of Italian throughout the school.
- Pupils also benefit from enrichment activities in dance and music, including performances at prestigious events, provided through the sports partnership and your link with a school specialising in the performing arts.
- Although partnership work is a strong feature of the curriculum, formal evaluation of how it contributes to pupils' overall achievement is underdeveloped.

Areas for development

- Formally evaluate the contribution of partnership work to improved standards and pupils' achievement.

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

Yours sincerely

Mary Harlow
Her Majesty's Inspector