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Mrs S Hoxey
Headteacher
Wyvern School
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Dear Mrs Hoxey

Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey inspection programme: design and technology (D&T)

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and pupils, during my visit on 14 September 2010 to look at work in D&T.

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 staff and pupils; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of pupils' work; and observation of two lessons.

The overall effectiveness of D&T is satisfactory.

Achievement in D&T

Pupils' achievement in D&T is satisfactory.

- D&T makes an outstanding contribution to pupils' personal development and enjoyment. Many increase their levels of independence through acquiring basic skills. Pupils' behaviour and attitudes to learning are good and with guidance they apply health and safety rules well.
- In lessons, sometimes more able pupils do not achieve as well as they can. For older pupils this is because the activities are not always sufficiently targeted to meet their individual needs.
- In the sixth form, food technology helps pupils to increase their independence and makes their learning relevant to life beyond school. Consequently, they are keen to enter the world of work and/or further

education. In 2010, one pupil gained a catering National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) linked closely with his work-based learning.

Quality of teaching of D&T

The quality of teaching is satisfactory.

- Adult support in lessons is used very effectively to support pupils who have profound and multiple special educational needs. Sometimes, opportunities in lessons are missed to plan sharply focused individual work to increase levels of attainment for the most able.
- Teaching is enhanced by the use of good-quality information and communication technology along with management systems targeted to individual needs. For example, comic-strip recipe cards and shopping lists are used to visually excite and interest pupils.

Quality of the curriculum in D&T

The quality of the curriculum in D&T is satisfactory.

- Sometimes lessons in the Early Years Foundation Stage have a focus more appropriate to Key Stage 1. When this happens, pupils do not have the richness of experience that they should have.
- Some D&T projects, such as making a single slipper, are not purposeful. However, all projects create opportunities for pupils to develop independence, which is a key feature of the school.
- Pupils in the sixth form clearly demonstrate how they have developed D&T skills and acquired knowledge to be able to enter the world of work and further education. A significant aspect is the D&T enterprise company where they make and sell food.

Effectiveness of leadership and management in D&T

Leadership and management in D&T are satisfactory

- The use of digital cameras is securely established resulting in a consistent visual record of pupils' work and their achievements in D&T lessons. Photographic and video imagery is evaluated to assess pupils' progress and changing needs effectively. The imagery is also used as a vital form of communication for parents to see the progress that their children are making.
- The school is in the process of assessing the small steps that pupils make in D&T as they have for literacy and numeracy. This information will enable faster identification of projects and lessons where learning is less successful.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- reviewing D&T projects to make sure that they are purposeful

- maximising the use of individual targets in D&T lessons to enhance the achievement of the most able pupils.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop D&T in the school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Steffi Penny
Her Majesty's Inspector