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23 October 2009

Mr P Head  
Principal  
The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London  
Tottenham Centre  
High Road, Tottenham  
London  
N15 4RU

Dear Mr Head

Ofsted 2009-10 survey inspection programme – Girls' and young women's achievement

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, during my visit on 7 October 2009, to examine the causes of girls' and young women's underachievement and long-term economic well-being and the good practice that effectively supports them. Please also pass on my thanks to Jane and to all the other staff and students who assisted with the provision of evidence for the survey.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national survey report. 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 made included: discussions with staff; observation of part of two lessons; discussions with two groups of young women; feedback from local employers; and relevant documentation provided by the college.

Overall, your work on promoting the achievement of young women, and in developing their future economic well-being is good.

Young women have a general awareness of career opportunities and value very highly the support and guidance provided by the college. In the main, students still make stereotypical choices in terms of their vocational courses, but the college has been proactive, with some success, in challenging these stereotypes, raising aspirations and changing attitudes.

Features of effective practice

- Successful outcomes for many disaffected, at risk and/or vulnerable girls and young women, as a consequence of timely interventions by staff and highly effective support services.

- A vocational curriculum that meets the needs of the local community; it accommodates pregnant teenagers and those with children and personalises programmes to enable these young women to successfully complete their course(s).
- Good promotional material that challenges stereotypes.
- A highly inclusive environment in which young women feel safe and supported.
- Effective partnerships with employers and other agencies to promote the economic well-being of young women, for example, working with a local business that actively recruits and employs female construction trainees.
- Proactive leaders and managers who take action to encourage young women to participate in non-traditional courses, with increasingly successful outcomes.
- A higher than average percentage of female teachers in construction, providing role models for young women.

Areas for further improvement, which we discussed, include:

- further developing the college's monitoring system to enable managers and tutors to identify more systematically trends in relation to the underachievement of young women
- developing young women's awareness of pay levels for different job roles enabling them to make informed decisions about career choices and their future economic well-being
- recruiting more young women to construction courses, building on the college's success in applied medical and forensic science and information technology.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to promote achievement and develop the economic well-being of girls and young women.

As I explained, a copy of this letter will be sent to the local Learning and Skills Council. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Harriet Harper  
Her Majesty's Inspector