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Mr John Tredwell  
Principal  
Worcester Sixth Form College  
Spetchley Road  
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Dear Mr Tredwell

Ofsted survey inspection programme – a comparison of the effectiveness of post 16 providers

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 26 and 27 September 2007 to look at work in level 3 provision.

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

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: interviews with staff and students, scrutiny of relevant documentation, and observation of three lessons.

The overall effectiveness of level 3 provision was judged to be outstanding.

#### Achievement and standards

Achievement and standards are outstanding. High grade achievement in GCE A levels remains well above the national average for sixth form colleges and has improved over the last three years. Students make exceptional progress from their starting points on entry to the college. This is reflected in national performance data systems that place the college in the top 10% of similar providers in each of the last six years.

#### Quality of teaching and learning of level 3 provision

The quality of teaching and learning at level 3, including academic guidance is outstanding. Teachers plan lessons extremely well to accommodate students' different learning styles and prior attainment. They use expertly a variety of activities

and resources that very successfully engage students' participation and make their learning fun.

The guidance and support provided is highly valued by the students and is outstanding. The college takes exceptional care to ensure students are on the right courses, including introductory lessons in AS level subjects. Students are given a highly effective and early introduction to the course work and study requirements in the sixth form, including the development of independent learning.

The tracking and monitoring of individual student progress is outstanding. Students show excellent awareness of their progress towards challenging and stretching targets and have very significant input into determining these. They consider the support of their teachers, their individual academic review and the very detailed feedback on their work extremely valuable in helping them to achieve as well as possible.

### Quality of curriculum

The extent to which programmes and activities meet students' needs and interests is outstanding. There is a very broad choice of courses which supports extremely well the wide range of prior attainment and aptitude that students bring to the college when they leave school at age 16. The college makes very considerable efforts to accommodate successfully students' chosen subject combinations.

### Leadership and management of level 3 provision

Leadership and management are outstanding. Self-assessment is very effective. Leaders and managers have a very clear understanding of the college's strengths and weaknesses. The rigorous and timely use of data at all levels of management to evaluate performance in level 3 provision is at the heart of a culture of continuous improvement, leading to highly focussed improvement planning. Leaders and managers have maintained and improved upon high levels of performance in level 3 provision, successfully addressing the need to ensure that a higher proportion of students complete their course. As a result there is excellent capacity to improve.

### Inclusion

Inclusion is outstanding. Recruitment to level 3 provision is exceptionally inclusive, reflecting the wide range of students' prior attainment at GCSE and their varied and often specialist support needs. The college is acutely aware of how well individual students achieve. Teachers monitor and track individual students' progress rigorously and take timely and highly appropriate action to tackle under-achievement.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, included:

- maintaining the progress made on improving retention on vocational provision at level 3.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop level 3 provision in the college.

As I explained in my previous letter, 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

Russell Jordan  
Her Majesty's Inspector