

Alexandra House
33 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 08456 404040
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



07 July 2008

Mrs W Brandy
Headteacher
George Dixon International School
City Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B17 8FL

Dear Mrs Brandy

Ofsted subject survey: identifying good practice in business and economics education

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit to look at work in business and management on the International Baccalaureate programme.

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 made included: discussions with students and staff and a review of documentation and students' work.

Features of good practice observed:

- the clear rationale for the International Baccalaureate programme based on meeting the needs, as effectively as possible, of the very diverse student population
- teachers and managers who are committed to the International Baccalaureate approach to learning and assessment
- the school's well considered recruitment strategy that identifies students who do not fully meet the entry requirements but have the potential, with appropriate levels of support, to make substantial progress during the two years of the course
- the guidance and support aimed at meeting the needs of all students on the course and providing opportunities for students to maximise their potential

- the confidence and independence students develop on the International Baccalaureate course and the very good preparation it provides for their higher education studies
- the excellent rates of progress of students from the International Baccalaureate into higher education, in particular, the progression rates of those students who are new to the United Kingdom or for whom English is not their first language
- in the business and management modules, the well structured schemes of work and lesson plans and the accurate and rigorous assessment of coursework and effective monitoring of students' progress.

I hope these observations are useful.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority/Local Learning and Skills Council and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Gwen Coates
Her Majesty's Inspector