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Mr J Steel
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Dear Mr Steel

Ofsted Thematic Survey Programme 2008-09

Social Responsibility and Community Cohesion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during our recent visit. We are particularly grateful to you and all your staff for the hard work involved in preparing for the visit and for giving up your time during the visit to meet us. Please pass on our thanks to all those concerned, including your students.

The visit provided much useful evidence for the further development of community cohesion. We noted, in particular:

- The vigorous determination at all levels in the school, and consistent endeavour in teamwork, to develop students' sense of social responsibility and promote community cohesion.
- The imaginative ways in which teachers plan lessons and leaders organise the school's specialist language college provision, PSHE and inclusion to take every opportunity to implement this aspect of the school's work with high quality.
- The eager commitment and strong personal skills demonstrated by students, for example, in older students' leadership as they develop younger students' awareness of the risks associated with drugs, and through burgeoning democracy in the school council.

We suggested the following point for development:

- Logging participation in enrichment opportunities (such as interchange with students in other countries) and evaluating the impact of these opportunities.

The published survey report will list the names of the contributing institutions in an appendix. Should we wish to cite specific aspects of the good practice observed on this visit in the form of a detailed case study, we will contact you first. We will notify you of the date of publication of the survey report when it is confirmed and provide you with details of any other arrangements to disseminate the survey's findings.

Yours sincerely

Jim Bennetts
Additional Inspector