

Alexandra House  
33 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE

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



13 October 2008

Mr M Tolhurst  
Principal & Chief Executive  
Newham College of Further Education  
East Ham Campus  
High Street North  
London  
E6 6EH

Dear Mr Tolhurst

Ofsted Thematic Survey Programme 2008-09

Social Responsibility and Community Cohesion

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation during my visit on 10 October 2008. I am 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 with me. Please pass on my thanks to all those concerned, including the learners that I met.

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

- Strong strategic leadership to promote equality and diversity, that has helped to create a highly inclusive ethos that is sensitive to the cultural needs of learners
- The continuing focus on developing English skills among learners to provide successful learning outcomes and good opportunities for progression
- The highly responsive and creative projects that promote community cohesion
- The outstanding range of partnerships that encourage many hard to reach groups to participate in education and training
- The clear focus on the development of employability skills to prepare learners for work, and close links with local businesses
- Very good student support that facilitates high achievement rates for all Black and minority ethnic groups.

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, you will be contacted 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

Tony Noonan  
Her Majesty's Inspector