

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

T 0300 123 1231
F 020 7421 6855
enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
www.ofsted.gov.uk



11 June 2010

Ms R Fidler
Hospitality Training Partnership
Suite 3, The Courtyard
Monks Brook
Newport
PO30 5BF

Dear Ms Fidler

Ofsted 2010-11 survey inspection programme: numeracy - tackling the challenge of ensuring that young people and adults gain the numeracy skills they need for their careers and personal lives

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 28 May 2010 to look at your work in numeracy.

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 included: interviews with staff, learners and employers; scrutiny of relevant documents; visits to four workplaces; and observation of two progress reviews with learners involving numeracy.

Overall, Hospitality Training Partnership (HTP) is good at tackling the challenge of ensuring that young people and adults gain the numeracy skills they need for their careers and personal lives.

Key findings

- Since December 2008, HTP has successfully raised the profile of numeracy and mathematics among staff, learners and employers. This initiative has involved a good range of staff development to identify the importance of numeracy in each of the industries covered by HTP's training programmes and to increase staff's expertise in providing numeracy support. All staff have, or are working towards, a qualification in numeracy or mathematics at level 2 and this is now a requirement for new staff. However, no member of staff has a qualification in teaching numeracy at level 5.
- HTP has developed an effective process for using initial screening to identify learners' levels of numeracy. Staff identify learning goals that relate to the specific topics in numeracy that learners struggled with in the

assessment and they use this information well to support their further development.

- HTP has developed very good partnership work with employers to promote and extend the range of apprenticeships it offers and has recently increased the numbers of learners on Skills for Life programmes in Train to Gain. It has accurately identified further work needed to ensure that more employers agree to their employees participating in numeracy programmes while at work.
- HTP's Skills for Life strategy and implementation plan have realistic objectives and targets for development. A steering group, that includes senior managers, monitors the progress in meeting these targets very effectively. However, it does not include specific targets for the development of the numeracy provision.
- Teaching and learning in numeracy, observed during the visits to learners at work, were satisfactory. Staff were particularly supportive when working with learners individually. They provided good explanations to help learners understand mathematical processes, such as working out ratios and presenting statistical data in different formats. However, they did not make sufficient use of practical activities at learners' workplaces to help them develop similar numeracy skills in more meaningful contexts.
- Well-designed assessments and projects to assess vocational skills for the NVOs include a good range of work-related numeracy tasks. These effectively reinforce learners' numeracy skills and provide a reminder of how they use numeracy at work.
- Achievement of qualifications in Skills for Life in Train to Gain is good, although success rates are not available for numeracy and literacy separately. Overall, achievement of apprenticeships, which includes the achievement of the qualification in application of number, is also good. Learners interviewed said they had increased their confidence in carrying out numeracy-related tasks at work, such as costing menus, juggling the timings for restaurant bookings on busy evenings and developing charts and graphs for presentations to colleagues.

Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- extending the promotion of numeracy as a subject separate from literacy, by including development objectives and targets specifically for numeracy, such as ensuring that more staff have appropriate qualifications in teaching numeracy and more learners take up numeracy in Train to Gain
- continuing to use staff development and the sharing of good practice to increase the expertise of staff in providing training and support in relevant vocational areas and to help learners reinforce their learning at work.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop numeracy at HTP.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to the Skills Funding Agency, and will be published on the Ofsted website under the URN

for your organisation. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Karen Adriaanse
Her Majesty's Inspector