

25 January 2010

Dear Students

Inspection of St. Peter's High School, Burnham on Crouch, CM0 8QB

I am writing to let you know about the results of our recent inspection visit to your school. The full version of the report is being sent home to your parents and carers. The report contains information about the sixth form, which I encourage students in Years 12 and 13 to read. This letter is for students in Years 7 to 11.

During our inspection, there were several things that we were pleased to note including your good attitudes to healthy living and your satisfactory behaviour and attendance at school. Without exception, we were met with courtesy throughout our visit, and I thank you very much for that. We know that many of you make good contributions to the community in Burnham and we also know that your work is appreciated greatly by local people. We were disappointed, however, about the lack of opportunities that you have to work with and learn about people from different backgrounds to yourselves, particularly those with different beliefs or cultures.

You were pleased to tell us about the courses that you enjoy most at school, such as physical education, music and the vocational subjects. It is not surprising that your achievement is better in these areas. However, there are areas where standards are too low and you are not learning as quickly as you should. Crucially, your progress is too slow in English and mathematics. These subjects are vital to your chances of getting a good job or a place in further education. There is too much variation in the quality of your lessons, too. Ms Costello has a clear vision for improving the quality of your education, and you told us that you can see the ambition that she has for the school through the improvements that have been made to the building since she arrived. However we think that, in the immediate future, the school needs additional help to make sure that you get the chances that you deserve. The school has therefore been placed in 'special measures'. There are some important challenges for the school to meet, and inspectors will be visiting every term until those challenges have been achieved. You can play a very important part in this process by continuing to show positive attitudes to learning, attending regularly and, most importantly, taking particular care and pride with your written work. We wish you well with your future studies and we look forward to hearing how well you are doing.

Yours sincerely

Mark Phillips
Her Majesty's Inspector