

20 April 2009

Dear Students,

Inspection of St Paul's Way Community School, London, E3 4AN.

You will remember that we visited your school recently, and had the opportunity to talk with some of you and see you at work in lessons. We were very grateful for your welcome, and the honesty and maturity with which you talked about your school. Many of you were right when you told us what was good about the school and what needed to improve. These are the main things we found.

- The school has been through difficult times but is now improving, particularly since your new headteacher took over. Most of you enjoy coming to school, and want to play your part by working with each other and the adults in your school to help it improve further.
- You enjoy taking part in sport and other activities such as drama.
- You do really well at art and have taken part in some interesting projects.
- Not enough of you do well in your exams, because some of the lessons in Years 10 and 11 are not always interesting or challenging enough. Many of you know how well you are doing, but you are not always sure what you have to do to get better.
- Many of you do not enjoy your lessons, especially when the teachers do not know you well or take time to listen carefully enough to what you say.
- Your behaviour is sometimes too boisterous, particularly on the stairs, and this means that you and others might have accidents.
- Although more of you are coming to school regularly, you do not always go to lessons on time, and this holds you back.
- You find that some parts of the school are not kept clean enough.

Some things need to improve really quickly, so we have given your school a 'notice to improve' because its overall effectiveness is currently inadequate. This means that inspectors will come back in a few months' time to check what progress has been made. We have asked your headteacher to make sure that:

- more of your lessons are interesting and challenging, so that your enjoyment of learning improves and you make better progress

- adults and students work really closely, so that you get on much better and become more involved and motivated to learn
- teachers take time to help you understand exactly what you need to do to improve your work to the standards you should achieve.

You can help by attending regularly, turning up to lessons on time, and making sure that you concentrate and behave well at all times.

I wish you the very best of futures.

Yours faithfully

Christopher Wood  
Her Majesty's Inspector