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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*



*Providing Inspection Services for*  
**Department of Education  
Department for Employment and Learning  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Carrickfergus College  
Co Antrim**

**January 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE SPECIALIST SCHOOL BASELINE INSPECTION IN CARRICKFERGUS COLLEGE, CO ANTRIM, BT38 7QX (321-0091)**

The Specialist School Baseline inspection in Carrickfergus College took place in January 2008.

The inspection recommended that, for the purpose of showing improvement more clearly the school needed to:

- develop and enhance its links with industry across the curriculum;
- develop the ethos of business and enterprise across the work of the College; and
- review how the planned investment in a hair and beauty salon will contribute to school improvement, particularly in the levels of attainment by boys at key stage (KS) 3 and KS4.

In September 2008, the school submitted a specialist school's self-assessment report for 2007-08 to the Department of Education (DE) and subsequently the Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 13 January 2009.

Good progress has been made in the areas identified during the original inspection.

In most of the specialist areas inspected the quality of the education provided by the school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the baseline inspection:

- the achievement of the attainment targets in the specialist subjects of business studies and information and communication technology;
- the wide range of business and enterprise activities delivered to all year groups;
- the range of continuing professional development opportunities for staff;
- the progress, at departmental level, in making the schemes of work more relevant to boys;
- the greater use of the context of business and enterprise in teaching and learning in most subjects; and
- the enhancement of industrial links.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed further to focus more effectively on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Several areas for improvement remain to be addressed if the needs of all the learners are to be met effectively.

These include the need to:

- further develop whole-school planning, through the use of the specialism, to complement the main aims of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum and, to plan for improvement; and
- deploy sufficient specialist resources for the delivery of the occupational studies provision in beauty therapy.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the school's continued progress as part of the Specialist Schools' Programme.

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