

Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London
WC2B 6SE

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



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Canon P Williamson
Headteacher
Canon Slade School
Bradshaw Brow
Bolton
Lancashire

Dear Mr Williamson

Ofsted 2013 survey inspection: Competitive School Sport

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff during my visit on 24 September 2013 to look at competitive school sport.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our publication about best practice in competitive school sport. The publication will include case studies in individual schools. If your school is included as a case study, you will have an opportunity to comment prior to publication. Individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence was gained from meetings with you, the head of physical education (PE), the head of boys' PE, two groups of students, observations of students in lessons, and in lunchtime and after-school clubs. This evidence confirmed a number of features that enable you to provide an exceptional level of competitive school sport. These include:

- The school's values of working hard and striving for excellence are set within an ethos of respect, fair-play and teamwork. These principles underpin students' success in competitive sport. One student said, 'We are expected to give our best and win, but we are also expected to show respect for others. Cheating is unacceptable. We are the school's ambassadors and we know what is expected of us. Taking this attitude makes us stronger, eager to improve our skills and more determined to win'.
- The physical education staff are totally dedicated to ensuring maximum participation of students in PE and sport and are fully committed to helping students excel in competitive school sport. They are supported

very well by a number of other staff, some of whom are qualified coaches and highly skilled performers in their own chosen sport. Their high level of subject knowledge and expertise ensures that many students, especially the most able, perform exceptionally well in a range of competitive sports.

- Your support, and that of other staff, trustees and governors, for competitive sport is valued highly by the students and PE staff. Students say that they appreciate you and other staff taking time to watch them play their sport and feel proud when you acknowledge their success. Students' sporting achievements are celebrated throughout the school.
- The large number of extra-curricular sports activities and fixtures at lunchtime, after-school and weekends are very well attended by boys and girls. Students say that the amount of time given by staff to provide practices and fixtures is a major factor why they achieve so highly in competitive sport.
- Strong links with many local sports clubs ensure that students compete regularly outside of school. This enables students to build upon the skills learnt at school and improve their overall performance.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop competitive school sport.

Yours sincerely

Roy Bowers
Her Majesty's Inspector