

Mr Rupert Symmons
Fanshawe
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28 July 2011

Dear Rupert

Thank you.

As you may know, we have just been awarded Grade 1 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and we wanted to pass on our heart-felt thanks to all our partners and friends who helped to make this happen. We consider this a joint achievement - we are *extremely* proud of our partners who enrich the learning we offer here and provide opportunities for our students beyond City Lit and we greatly value the support of our friends.

We wanted to share with you what inspectors said about our strategic partnerships in their report:

"City Lit works with an outstanding range of partners. Curriculum managers and tutors make exemplary use of partners to enliven and enrich lessons, often giving learners the chance to work alongside industry professionals. Learners have excellent opportunities to progress to work, volunteering or higher education through City Lit's partners. Managers work very flexibly with partners and employers to devise specific and tailored courses that meet their needs exceptionally well."

As you can imagine it was quite a feat to achieve Grade 1, with 30,000 students, 4,000 courses and nearly 1,000 teachers. It means we are the first adult and community learner provider to be judged as outstanding under the new, stricter Ofsted criteria – and the only large provider ever to achieve the standard. Of course the result does not mean that we are perfect, there is still lots to do! But it is a good place to have reached and from which to plan the future.

We hope that this joint achievement may have significance beyond City Lit - the inspectors focused on non-accredited learning and the wider benefits of this on individuals who take part. They confirmed that part-time adult education has huge additional benefits for people both economically and socially. Let's hope that this adds something to the ongoing debate over the value of adult, 'informal' learning in the UK many of us are familiar with!

So, thank you again. We look forward to your continued support and working together in the future to both enrich the learning experience for students and to continue to demonstrate the value of adult learning.

Yours sincerely



Nick Moore

Deputy Principal

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