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Mr P B Fisher
Headmaster
Loughborough Grammar School
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Dear Mr Fisher

Ofsted 2013 survey inspection: Competitive School Sport

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff during my visit on 19 November 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 Director of Sport, other staff and students, and observations of students in a games lesson and in lunchtime and after-school practices. These confirmed a number of features that enable you to provide an exceptional level of competitive school sport and include:

- The school's long tradition of promoting the values of hard-work, commitment, determination, self-discipline, team-spirit and high performance through participation in competitive games is upheld through your own interest, understanding and expertise in competitive sport.
- Students say that they value your attendance at matches and appreciate your comments and handshakes, and those of your deputy headmaster, when they have played well. They are proud when their sporting achievements are recognised and celebrated in assemblies,

reports in the school and student magazines, the awarding of school colours and presentation of trophies.

- Staff are highly committed to ensuring that students of all abilities participate in competitive sports and that the most-talented students excel. They, and many other academic staff, give much of their time to organise and attend sports practices and fixtures.
- Staff subject knowledge is excellent. As a result, sports practices and games lessons are of high quality. Staff who are experts in particular sports act as 'lead coaches', mentoring colleagues who are less-qualified and less-experienced. Students say that the enthusiasm of the staff for competitive sport makes them want to participate, compete and inspires them to excel.
- Students' high participation is fostered through regular house and inter-form competitions, annual sports tours abroad, lunchtime and after-school sports activities and a PE curriculum which is focused on competitive sports. From this wide-base of participation, the most talented students are helped excel through regular school fixtures, working with specialist coaches, additional conditioning work to improve their fitness, links with local sports clubs and access to regional and national performance programmes.

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

Yours sincerely

Roy Bowers
Her Majesty's Inspector