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Mr C Healy
Headteacher
Balcarras School
East End Road
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Dear Mr Healy

Ofsted 2013 survey inspection: Competitive School Sport

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff during my visit on 3 December 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, 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 gained from meetings with you, your Head of Physical Education (PE) and other PE staff a group of students and observations of students in lessons and extra-curricular sports activities confirmed a number of features that enable you to provide an exceptional level of competitive school sport. These include:

- The school's ethos of promoting competitive sport, led by you. This is shown by your investment in high quality PE staff including maintaining the SSCo role to expand opportunities further, and in exceptional and continuously improving facilities.
- The exceptional breadth of opportunities for competitive sport provided in lessons, extra-curricular activities and inter-house competitions completed through 'collapsed' timetable days. Students excel in sport, particularly cross country, hockey, football and waterpolo.
- PE staff are excellent role models for elite performers. They continuously seek and provide opportunities to maximise every student's potential in competitive sport and to ensure that those capable of excelling in sport, do so. This generates a climate where students are self-motivated and show high levels of commitment to competitive sport.

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

Yours sincerely

Judith Rundle
Additional Inspector (Former Her Majesty's Inspector)