



## **Borders College praised by education inspectors**

Borders College this week received a first-rate report from HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) which says it found examples of *"excellence and sector leading practice"* at the college.

Reviewed by external inspectors in March 2010, the report examined teaching and learning at the college.

The review team talked to students, staff, Board members, employers and partners of the college and its report praises the College on high levels of attainment by students who are confident, highly engaged and well motivated.

The report highlights a well led College which is highly responsive to the needs of the local economy and local communities and offers a strong focus on employability, citizenship and the use of new technologies. It recognises the College's delivery of high quality learning and teaching processes by professional, committed and expert staff and is praised for its welcoming and supportive environment where relationships between staff and students are excellent.

Inspectors also state that they believe the new college facilities have had a positive impact on the learning experience for students.

Singled out as *"sector leading practice"* is the Borders Business Programme, a joint three year management degree programme delivered in partnership with Heriot-Watt University which offers degree level study designed to meet the needs of local employers seeking staff with higher education qualifications.

The review team also recognised the College's excellent approach to ESOL provision (for learners – mostly from Eastern Europe - whose first language is not English) along with the College's work on developing the skills of learners with additional support needs through work placement.

Commenting on the report, Liz McIntyre, principal of Borders College said:

*"All of us – staff, students and the Board of Management – are very proud of this report. It's a fantastic vote of confidence in the team work that makes this College a first-rate place to learn and it recognises the valuable contribution that the College makes to our local community."*