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Mrs K Yates
Headteacher
Castle Business and Enterprise College
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Dear Mrs Yates

Ofsted subject survey: identifying good practice in business and enterprise education

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and pupils, during my visit to look at work in business and enterprise education.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements made included: visits to lessons, discussions with pupils and staff, review of documentation and pupils' work.

Features of good practice observed

- The quality of provision that ensures pupils enjoy learning, achieve well and are developing enterprise skills that are contributing very well to their future economic well-being.
- Teaching and learning which focuses very well on developing pupils' enterprise skills, particularly their independent thinking and problem solving skills and their communication and team workings skills.
- The potential of the portfolio system which enables pupils to record evidence of their enterprise activities.
- The extensive range of enterprise activities and how effectively this is embedded in the curriculum.
- The personalised and progressive nature of the curriculum that aims to meet pupils' individual needs and their future aspirations.

- The very effective way in which enterprise education, the creative partnership and eco-school activities develop and enhance pupils' learning.
- The strong links with local businesses that provide very good opportunities for pupils to develop their work-related skills.
- The commitment of staff to the school's business and enterprise specialist status and the opportunities this is providing for developing its already strong focus on preparing pupils for adult life.

Areas for development that we discussed included:

- identifying learning outcomes and developing the system for assessing pupils' enterprise capability.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop business and enterprise in the school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be sent to your local authority and will be published on Ofsted's website. It will also be available to the team for your next institutional inspection.

Yours sincerely

Gwen Coates
Her Majesty's Inspector