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Mr D Rowe
Sutton School and Specialist College
Scotts Green Close
Russells Hall Estate
Dudley
West Midlands

Dear Mr Rowe

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

- Enterprise education is embedded in the whole curriculum at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.
- The clear enjoyment students get from enterprise-related activities and the confidence with which they are able to discuss their knowledge, understanding and experience.
- The very strong focus on preparing students for their adult life after school and, in particular, the excellent contribution the school makes to their future economic well-being.
- The commitment of all staff and the good use of both teaching and non-teaching staff in providing enterprise education for students.
- The partnerships the school has developed with other schools and colleges and with local businesses in order to enhance the provision for enterprise education and students' work-related learning.
- The reward system that encourages good behaviour and supports the development of students' personal finance education.

- The very good accommodation and facilities and the learning resources for enterprise education that have been carefully adapted and developed to meet the specific needs of students.
- The carefully thought-out assessment system to evaluate students' progress in developing enterprise capability.
- Leadership and management that is very effectively influencing the development of this valuable aspect of the curriculum.

Areas for development that we discussed included:

- monitoring the implementation of the assessment system to ensure its effectiveness in tracking students' progress and identifying where whole school provision may need to be improved.

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