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Mr P Leach
Headteacher
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Dear Mr Leach

Ofsted survey inspection programme: evaluation of Rotherham Ready enterprise initiative (good practice visit)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff and students, during my visit on 18 June 2008 to look at work in 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 visit included: observations of lessons, discussions with students and staff and a review of documentation and students' work.

Features of good practice observed

- The high priority given to promoting students' self-confidence and independence, including the provision of good opportunities for them to take responsibility and develop the skills they need for independent living, especially post-16.
- The good and progressive range of opportunities provided to help learners develop enterprise skills, including using work-related contexts.
- The way the school capitalises on opportunities throughout the curriculum to develop students' enterprise capability and make learning relevant.
- The effective use made of the Rotherham Ready list of enterprise capabilities to give coherence to the provision made for enterprise education.
- The good quality resource files, including the effective use of case studies, that help teachers integrate enterprise opportunities into teaching and learning.
- The good opportunities provided for sixth form students to apply their ICT skills in work-related contexts.
- The encouragement given to all students to set and review individual targets.

- The effective use of photographs to support learning and assessment.
- The good progress made in developing a system for mapping and tracking students' progress in developing enterprise capabilities.

The area for development, which we discussed:

- aligning the systems of self-evaluation, peer and teacher assessment so they all focus on the skills learnt and progress made across the range of enterprise activities undertaken.

I hope these observations are useful for the future development of work in this area.

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

Yours sincerely

Vic Chivers
Her Majesty's Inspector