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14 November 2008

Mr J Rogers  
Headteacher  
Eston Park School  
Burns Road  
Eston  
Middlesbrough TS6 9AW

Dear Mr Rogers,

### Ofsted survey inspection programme – Moving through the system

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 8 and 9 October 2008 to look at work on developing the future economic well-being of pupils in your school. I also looked at how well arrangements are made to support pupils during their transition into and from secondary school.

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: scrutiny of relevant documentation, observation of three lessons, observation of the pupils at lunchtime and during lessons, observation of the school council and interviews with staff and pupils.

Overall, your work in developing the future economic well-being of pupils in your school is good with many outstanding features. The school is extremely successful in thoroughly integrating its business and enterprise specialisms into all areas of its work. It really does make a difference for young people in an area of challenging circumstances. You very successfully open pupils' eyes to the possibilities and life chances that are available beyond school and enable them to achieve very well, both personally and academically, in preparation for the challenges that lie ahead.

### Features of effective practice:

- Pupils settle into school very quickly when they join in Year 7 and they appreciate what is done for them to ease their transfer from the primary sector. They really enjoy the wealth of enterprise activities that the school provides for them and benefit from the excellent careers and guidance programme as they move between year groups. Pupils of all levels of attainment recognise that the school goes the extra mile to ensure that they do well.
- The atmosphere for learning is very good throughout the school. Pupils develop confidence and excellent social skills as they respond extremely positively to the



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

consistently good staff role models, the good teaching and the individual support that they receive. GCSE results represent good achievement year on year and pupils understand clearly how these, combined with their well developed enterprise skills, will equip them well for the future. Business education at GCSE is a major player in this area.

- The excellent support and guidance programme ensures that virtually all pupils do well and make well informed choices as they move towards the sixth form, college or work. The school's success as a bridge between primary school and age 16 can be seen in its GCSE results and the way that pupils acquire the skills that they will need to be successful in the future. The school is successful in ensuring that virtually all pupils in Year 11 either enter the next phase of education or training or go directly into employment.

Areas for further improvement, which we discussed:

- Not all pupils fully master the basic principles of the successful management of personal finance.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to develop economic well-being in the school.

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

Yours sincerely,

John Paddick  
Her Majesty's Inspector

