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Mrs M Ball
The Head Teacher
Baylis Court School
Gloucester Avenue
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SL1 3AH

Dear Mrs Ball,

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 Wednesday 21 January and the morning of Thursday 22 January to look at work on developing the future economic well-being of pupils and students in your school and careers education. I also looked at how well arrangements are made to support pupils during their transition into 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:

- analysis of a significant amount of written information that you provided both before and during my visit
- discussions with you, senior managers and two Connexion's personal advisers
- five visits to different parts of your personal, social, health and economic well-being (PSHE) programme
- discussions with pupils in years 7, 9, 11, sixth form students and with ex-pupils, who are now undergraduates, who gave me their views about the programmes they were on and the progress they were making in your school.

Overall, your work in developing the future economic well-being of pupils and students in your school is outstanding. All pupils and students develop a very high level of self-confidence, often from a very low base and with a number living in difficult circumstances. A feature of the teaching and learning is the strategies to develop strong team-working skills, sharing ideas and supporting each other to do well. As one student said, 'This is a Yes We Can school and it helps us to build up our confidence and do things we could only dream of'. Staff are challenging, caring and supportive and demonstrate this by their involvement in the classroom and in their pastoral activities around the school.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

All pupils and students, particularly the older ones, make good progress in their financial literacy, and very good progress in their understanding of their career options. Their outstanding progress, particularly in the subjects of English, mathematics and information, communication technology, equips them for life after school. The Every Child Matters curriculum includes a wide range of enterprise activities. These develop the financial understanding that is demonstrated in the numerous fund raising activities and the enterprise day. Through their work experience and the many other contacts with employers, older students develop a very good appreciation of the skills and attributes necessary for success in the workplace and in further and higher education.

Features of effective practice:

- The excellent links with the feeder primary schools enable the young pupils to join their new school with confidence. Prior to starting in the school, they meet the head teacher and key staff and spend time in their new environment. They know what the school expects of them and what they will receive in return; help, guidance and support.
- The charismatic leadership of the head teacher inspires staff, pupils and students to give of their very best and produces a culture where everyone counts. The school recognises that pupils and students only have one education and that it must be of the highest quality.
- The integrated curriculum, in year 7, enables pupils to develop confidence, make outstanding progress and achieve highly.
- The school's specialist status as a performing and visual arts college adds richness to the life of the school. Pupils and students enjoy this area of work and the positive impact it has on their time at school.
- The Every Child Matters curriculum effectively supports the pupils and students and helps them to become excellent, highly motivated and interested learners. This outstanding mix of pastoral and academic support makes the school so successful. The notable care and guidance structure involves all staff. They are prepared to listen to, help and guide pupils and students.
- The very well planned work experience helps pupils to develop a very good understanding of the world of work. It includes excellent preparation for pupils and is effectively integrated into the curriculum. The written work produced is credited as part of the coursework for GCSE English.

Areas for further improvement, which we discussed, include:

- Consider the national developments in 14-19 education to widen choice and develop alternative pathways to fully match every pupil's and student's gifts and talents.

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

Andrew Lyons
Additional inspector