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Ms J Triska
Headteacher
Oakwood High School
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Dear Ms Triska

Ofsted survey inspection programme: business and enterprise education (good practice visit)

Thank you for your hospitality and co-operation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 02-03 July 2009 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 visit included discussions with yourself, staff and students, a scrutiny of documentation and students' work and observations of parts of four lessons.

Features of good practice observed

- Outstanding teaching that is imaginative and fully engages students in learning.
- The high expectations set by teachers and the emphasis given to encouraging students to reflect on their learning and evaluate their own work and that of their peers.
- The excellent classroom relationships that exist between students and between staff and students.
- The high levels of enjoyment demonstrated by students in their learning.
- The good development of students' enterprise and other skills which are essential for their future economic well-being.
- The excellent provision of information technology resources and the effective use which is made of them.
- The exciting and highly motivating activities and events students are engaged in, for example the 'making poetry fashionable' show held at the Lowry theatre and the contemporary art project visit to New York.

- The very good opportunities students have to work with a range of professionals from outside of the school, such as poets, artists and business people.
- The way in which the school continues to support students after they have left the school.

Areas for development, that we agreed, included:

- clarifying the learning outcomes for economic, business and financial understanding and developing ways of assessing students' progress in achieving them
- extending the opportunities for students to make their own decisions in planning events and activities.

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

As I explained in my previous letter, 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

David Butler
Her Majesty's Inspector