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Mrs J Stamper
Headteacher
The Schoolgirl Mums' Unit at Girls Boulevard Centre
172 Boulevard
Kingston-upon-Hull
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HU3 3EL

Dear Mrs Stamper

Ofsted survey inspection programme – Girls' and young women's achievement

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your staff, during my visit on 20 October 2009 to look at the causes of girls' and young women's underachievement and long-term economic well-being and the good practice that effectively supports them.

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: discussions with yourself, staff and the Connexions service; observation of parts of three lessons; discussions with a group of girls and young women; and school documentation.

Overall, your work on promoting the achievement of girls' and young women and in developing their future economic well-being is outstanding. The unit has an excellent understanding of the needs of schoolgirl mums and offers a balance of education, support, advice and guidance for the students, and good facilities for the care of their babies. Respect, support and cooperation underpin the work of the unit. The students are motivated to succeed not only as parents but also to achieve the qualifications necessary to enable them to progress into further education and training.

Features of effective practice included the following:

- a very comprehensive curriculum that encourages students to achieve a minimum of five GCSEs as well as a range of other relevant qualifications

- a very well-planned and coherent programme of work-related learning and careers education
- excellent monitoring of students' progress for both academic and personal development
- very effective individual support, mentoring and target setting to raise students' aspirations and ensure significant progress from their starting points
- very effective partnership working with a wide range of professionals and specialist organisations.

I hope these observations are useful as you continue to promote achievement and develop the economic well-being of girls and young women in the unit.

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

Jan Lloyd
Her Majesty's Inspector