

28 April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re. Ofsted report March 2023

As you will be aware, on Tuesday 7th March and Wednesday 8th March 2023, Energy Coast UTC had a full two-day Section 5 Ofsted Inspection. The inspection followed the new framework which, as you may have read in the national press, is much more challenging in terms of criteria than the previous and has made the 'outstanding' grade more challenging and exacting.

The process was very thorough and rigorous, exploring the effectiveness of all aspects of school life such as the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, safeguarding and also our sixth-form provision. Following notification from the team at Ofsted, I am now able to share a copy of the report with you and the outcome of the inspection: Energy Coast UTC is a 'Good' school with excellent facilities, close links to local employers and great student destinations.

We are delighted that inspectors found our school to be **'a welcoming and nurturing place for pupils to learn'**, where **'pupils are happy'** as **'they are treated as individuals and can be themselves'** and that **'pupils feel safe'** as they **'know that staff will listen and help them if they are worried about something'**. Within a range of meetings with pupils and in lessons across all curriculum areas inspectors found that **'pupils are polite and friendly. They enjoy positive relationships with each other and their teachers'** and that **'in lessons, pupils concentrate well because lessons are rarely disrupted.'** Within lessons, student work and feedback inspectors also acknowledged that **'teachers skilfully use their specialist subject knowledge, including that of industry, to present and explain information clearly to pupils. This helps pupils to deepen their learning'** - as a result of this **'pupils achieve well'** as **'leaders have high expectations of pupils' achievement and behaviour.'**

The team were particularly complimentary about the excellent links that we build with industry that are embedded throughout our curriculum which ensures that **'students successfully move on to education, employment or training including apprenticeships'** as a result of the education they receive at Energy Coast UTC. They recognised that **'pupils enjoy learning in well-equipped engineering suites [and that] they take part in high-quality work experience with prestigious employers'** enabling students to forge close links with employers in the local community, supporting their transition into further education, employment and training.

We have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that our unique curriculum offer is ambitious for all students with a keen focus upon a first-class technical provision with links to employability and the world of work. The inspection team found that **'leaders, the CEO, and governors are highly ambitious for all pupils...they enable pupils to develop into well-rounded individuals who are ready for the world of work'**. This demonstrates our continued commitment to providing students on the west coast of Cumbria with an excellent education that really takes into consideration the skills-gap in the local area, ensuring that our students are highly desirable employees of the future as a result of the education they receive. Inspectors also commented that **'leaders have developed an**

appropriate curriculum, including in the sixth form, that meets the needs of local employers in areas such as engineering and construction’. This continues to be fundamental to the success of our students as they venture into excellent careers post-16.

We aim to inspire pupils to be ambitious in their next steps post-16; inspectors recognised this in conversations with pupils who **‘speak highly of the careers guidance they receive. This includes learning about apprenticeships and participating in well-designed visits to employers and universities. This allows pupils to make informed choices about their future career pathways.’**

Following on from the covid-19 pandemic, attendance continues to be a national cause for concern. While the report recognises that **‘leaders’ actions to raise overall rates of attendance have led to improvements for some pupils’**, this is an area that inspectors have identified as a next step for our school and is something that we hope you will continue to support us with in the future. For your child to achieve the best possible outcomes it is crucial that they attend school and engage with their studies every day. This will ensure that students have fewer gaps in their knowledge as a result of poor attendance and enable all to achieve their full potential when they progress onto further education, apprenticeships or training. By working together, I am confident that we can make excellent progress in this area to support our students every step of the way.

A copy of the full report is available on the school website energycoastutc.co.uk and will also be published on the Ofsted website on Wednesday 10th May 2023.

Energy Coast UTC is a community. We strive to ensure that all pupils, teachers, support staff, employer partners and alumni are fully supported to achieve excellence at each moment in time-empowering all members of our community with the necessary skills to achieve future ambitions. We are immensely proud of the technically-focused education that we provide to students and even more so that this is just one of the highlights of our most recent inspection report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, students, parents, carers, trustees and employer partners for their continued support and know that by working together we will continue to ensure that we secure the best possible outcomes and future destinations for our students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,



Kerryann Wilson
Acting Principal



Cherry Tingle
CEO



Barbara M Stephens OBE
Chair of Governing Body