

30 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St. Matthew's Academy. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The effective engagement of the young people in creating a strong sense of community. They are motivated to succeed and are proud of their school.
- Teachers work collaboratively with a strong and shared sense of purpose. They create a positive climate for improvement. They provide high quality learning experiences and an increasing range of opportunities for young people to be successful.
- The strong leadership of the headteacher, who is supported well by the senior leadership team. They provide clear strategic direction for the school and prioritise what is best for young people. The school's values, underpinned by Gospel values, are strong, visible and well-embedded.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from North Ayrshire Council.

- Continue to look outwards at other practice nationally, to help staff to develop further their understanding of national standards and expectations for the achievement of a Curriculum for Excellence level across all curriculum areas.
- Continue to support young people to understand and articulate the skills they are developing, for example, in using digital technology.
- Continue to focus on improving flexible learning pathways in the senior phase to further raise attainment and meet the needs of all young people.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for St. Matthew's Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>very good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/north-ayrshire/8210039>

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. North Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

David Drysdale  
HM Inspector