

27 June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Arbroath 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.

- Senior leaders and staff have developed a supportive climate for learning where relationships are very positive between young people and staff. Young people are polite, courteous and demonstrate a readiness to learn.
- Young people are developing important skills and attributes through their participation in a range of well-planned out of class activities.

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

- Teachers need to develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment. This includes the need to plan learning which offers greater levels of challenge to meet the needs and aspirations of young people.
- Middle leaders and teachers, supported by senior leaders, need to gather and use data on young people's progress more effectively to inform a range of strategies to raise attainment. This includes having a school overview of how well all young people are progressing and attaining from S1-S3.
- Senior leaders and staff need to continue to develop an aspirational culture across the school to raise attainment at all levels.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). 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 Arbroath Academy

| Quality indicators | Evaluation |
|---|---------------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | satisfactory |
| Raising attainment and achievement | weak |
| Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale. | |

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | Education Scotland](#).

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Angus Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 12 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Angus Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school, we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Patricia Cameron
HM Inspector