

24 April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Campbeltown Grammar School. 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 range and quality of learning experiences for those who require support with their learning. Learning support staff ensure that young people follow learning programmes which are well matched to their individual needs.
- The willingness of staff, learners and partners to work together to improve outcomes for young people. These positive relationships offer the potential for enhancement of young people's learning experiences and for raising attainment.

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

- Take the opportunity provided by the move to the new building to revise the school vision, values and aims, involving young people, parents and staff, to provide the school and its partners with a clear sense of direction.
- Improve the quality and consistency of the school's approaches to self-evaluation, informed by rigorous use of data and effective planning to improve outcomes for young people.
- Develop strategic leadership across the school in order to identify key improvement priorities. Senior leaders should maintain an overview of the pace of change to ensure that it is manageable and sustainable. Planning over the mid and short term should focus on a small number of priorities.
- Develop further, as a matter of urgency, a curriculum which is relevant to the school's context, meets the needs of all learners and provides appropriate pathways and qualifications for all young people. This should include improving learning and teaching across the school to ensure an appropriate level of pace and challenge.
- Set a strategic direction to lead developments and maintain an overview of young people's wellbeing at Campbeltown Grammar School. This should include the development and implementation of approaches to wellbeing which support young people having a shared understanding of their own progress in wellbeing.
- Improve attainment. Develop approaches to assessment, including the monitoring and tracking of young people's progress, to ensure there is timely reliable data on the attainment of every learner.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate some quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, education 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 evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Campbeltown Grammar School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	weak
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory

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 will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/argyll-and-bute/8110034>

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 Argyll & Bute Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Argyll & Bute 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.

Jacqueline Gallagher
HM Inspector