

25 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Montrose 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.

- Young people who are welcoming and keen to discuss their learning.
- Young people are benefitting from participating in an increasing range of wider achievement activities provided by both staff and local partners. This helps promote a strong community identity with Montrose.
- Young people with complex and severe needs are benefitting from high quality personalised support.

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

- Staff across the school need to develop a shared understanding of high quality learning, teaching and assessment. Young people should experience more engaging, motivating and active learning with a greater understanding of their next steps in learning.
- Staff need to have a clearer understanding of national assessment standards in order to plan and deliver tasks and activities set at the right level of difficulty.
- Senior leaders should work with staff to raise attainment for all young people in all subject areas. All staff need to ensure more effective approaches to identifying young people at risk of under-achievement. There needs to be a particular focus on improving numeracy across the school.

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 Montrose Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
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 one year 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.

Susan McDade
HM Inspector