

31 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Hawick High 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 headteacher provides strong and effective leadership of change to drive improvement. She has a purposeful approach to raising expectations and standards. The priorities identified for improvement are beginning to take forward key aspects of the work of the school.
- The commitment to provide all teachers with opportunities to be leaders of learning through collaborative working and professional learning. This is beginning to improve the learning experiences of young people.
- The highly skilled staff in the Enhanced Provision who work effectively as a team to ensure that all young people make very good progress. Very positive relationships create a strong sense of belonging, which supports young people to feel safe, cared for and valued.

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

- A clear strategic overview is now needed of the range of work taking forward improvements. Staff should continue to work collaboratively to progress a more joined-up approach with clear timescales for activities and an appropriate pace of change.
- Build on existing effective practice and enthusiasm of staff to continue to improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the school.
- All staff need to recognise their role in providing support for all young people. Staff should continue to develop approaches to supporting all young people, including those who are facing significant challenges in their lives, to attain and achieve. This should lead to all young people feeling welcome, valued and included in the life of the school.
- Further work is needed to improve the curriculum so that young people can make better progress in their learning.
- Improve the attainment of young people. Work is needed to ensure that more young people leave Hawick High School with appropriate qualifications.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Hawick High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
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 (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=2897>

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 Scottish Borders Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within 18 months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Scottish Borders 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.

Carol McDonald
HM Inspector