

5 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Annan 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 leadership of the headteacher who is building a vision with his leadership team and with all staff. The aspiration is that all young people are cared for, demonstrate effort and show resilience. The headteacher has a relentless drive and enthusiasm to ensure that all young people have a positive experience at Annan Academy.
- Staff enhance and enrich young people's learning experiences by offering an increasing range of out of class activities. Many of these are supported by effective partnership working in the local community. Teachers are increasingly reflecting on their practice and working to improve outcomes for young people.
- Senior leaders, in consultation with young people, staff and parents, annually review the curriculum to meet the changing needs of young people. There are a greater number and range of accredited opportunities which is enabling more young people to follow a wider range of learning pathways and to achieve at an appropriate level.
- The different ways in which staff in the school ask for the views of young people and act on them to improve their learning experiences. As a result, young people feel more included in improving the life and work of the school.

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

- Senior staff should work closely to lead and manage the changes needed to raise the aspirations of some young people and to improve outcomes for all young people. Staff should continue to increase their own skills and knowledge to make sure they can be fully involved in moving the school forward.
- Develop a shared understanding with all staff of what high-quality learning and teaching looks like in Annan Academy. Build on the highly effective practice in a few areas of the school to improve the quality of learning and teaching and ensure that this is applied consistently across all curricular areas. Across the school there is a need to improve the pace and challenge in learning for young people.
- Approaches to promoting wellbeing, inclusion and equality should be improved to ensure that all young people are able to reflect on their learning, development and progress. Develop a more integrated approach to supporting young people to learn and achieve. Support all staff to recognise and better meet the needs of all learners.

- Continue to improve attainment and achievement for all young people to ensure that they attain and achieve as highly as possible. Continue to develop and modify approaches to checking the progress of young people across all stages so that teachers can plan appropriately to ensure young people make best possible progress.

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 Annan Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	good
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	satisfactory
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/inspection-reports/dumfries-and-galloway/5948339>.

What happens next?

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. Dumfries and Galloway Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Frances E Graham
 HM Inspector