

31 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dunoon 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. Unless otherwise stated, text refers to English and Gaelic Medium Education, as well as the learning centre.

- The headteacher, ably supported by the depute headteachers, is successfully leading approaches in pursuit of consistent, high-quality learning and teaching across the school. Importantly, this is underpinned by strong relationships and promotion of values. The headteacher is highly respected by staff and stakeholders.
- The school's enterprise work with young people has been recognised with multiple national and international awards. Staff work very well with a range of local, national and international partners, businesses and charities to develop relevant, real-life contexts for learning. This results in young people developing creativity, and skills for learning, life and work. Young people's use of digital technology convinces them of its use in overcoming challenges that may be associated with rural locations.
- Aspects of young people's attainment at S4 have improved. Across stages, young people are proud of their achievements. Those in Gaelic Medium Education value the skills and fluency they gain from immersion opportunities such as Film-G.
- Young people in the learning centre are fully included in the school. They are happy, confident and positive in their outlook.

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

- Senior leaders and staff have reviewed the curriculum. They should use the results of this review to continue to raise attainment, particularly in literacy. Young people should follow courses that are always aligned to their needs and aspirations, and help them to be even more successful.
- Teachers should continue to seek opportunities to work with colleagues more widely to improve their judgement of young people's progress and attainment in S1 to S3. This should help them to tailor learning more to support and challenge all young people.
- The school's improvement plan needs to detail whole-school action points bespoke to the Gaelic sector. Senior leaders are still to explore the creativity and flexibility in learning through Gaelic that is encouraged in national advice.

- In the learning centre, staff should increase the information they gather on young people's attainment and achievements. They should use this information more robustly to continue to build on young people's successes.

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 Dunoon Grammar School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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=2436>

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

Joan C. Esson
HM Inspector