

14 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2024, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Columba's 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, senior leaders and staff have worked very successfully to develop a common approach to planning learning, teaching and assessment. This results in young people building on their prior learning well with tasks and activities being set at the right level of difficulty for young people.
- Staff have developed high quality, creative and engaging approaches to learning, teaching and assessment. As a result, young people are engaged and highly motivated in their learning.
- Staff check for understanding and use this information very well to support young people's learning and attainment.
- Young people benefit from a very extensive range of activities and programmes which support wider achievement within school. Young people's achievements are encouraged, recorded and celebrated by school staff very well as a central part of the school's culture.

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

- Continue to build on highly effective practice in learning, teaching and assessment.
- Continue, as planned, to improve the quality of passes for young people in the senior phase.

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 St Columba's High School.

| Quality indicators | Evaluation |
|---|------------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | very good |
| Raising attainment and achievement | very 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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and review](#) | [Education Scotland](#).

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

Graeme Brown
HM Inspector