

5 February 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Port Glasgow 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's leadership and management of the pace of change. Along with his senior leadership team, he is inspiring staff to lead new initiatives. This is bringing about improvement and is empowering staff to become more creative in a range of new approaches. The positive relationships and fresh vision that have been fostered across the school community are encouraging young people to challenge themselves to achieve more.
- The renewed values which underpin the friendly and nurturing ethos in the school are helping young people to develop their confidence and leadership skills. Young people are articulate, aspirational and respond very positively to the raised expectations of them in all aspects of the school's work.
- Recent important improvements in a wide range of positive outcomes for young people. For example there have been improvements in senior phase attainment and the number of young people supported to move on to positive destinations from school. This is resulting in an inclusive school environment where learners are being developed more fully for life.
- The collaborative working of staff in a range of teams across the school and cluster. This is creating a caring school community where staff embrace challenge and are motivated to drive improved learning experiences for young people across the school.

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

- Continue to develop more consistent approaches to monitoring the progress of young people's attainment, achievement and wellbeing. This should include monitoring of wider engagement activities and wider skills that young people are developing.
- Continue to develop the curriculum to ensure all learners experience their full entitlement to a broad general education. This will provide a wider range of pathways for progression into the senior phase, as well as opportunities for learners to engage in relevant experiences which build on their awareness of the world of life and work.
- Continue to build on approaches to planning and delivering high quality learning and teaching, ensuring all learners experience more consistency across all departments.

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 Port Glasgow High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	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/inspection-reports/inverclyde/8645531>

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.

JohnPaul Cassidy
 HM Inspector