

26 August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Forfar Academy – Acadamaidh Farfair. 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.

- Young people recognise clear classroom routines and learn in a calm, respectful environment. Teachers have developed and use a clear structure for delivering learning episodes to young people. As a result, young people's experiences in the classroom are more consistent.
- Young people in 'the Hub' are well supported to attain and achieve at appropriate levels while feeling valued members of the wider school community.
- Staff have a strong understanding of the context of the school. They know the young people and their families well. This is leading to an increasing range of bespoke, equitable and discreet supports to enable young people to be successful.

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

- Senior leaders should continue to improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment across the school. This should include ensuring that tasks and activities are set at the right level of difficulty for all young people. Teachers should continue to develop further a shared understanding of high-quality teaching and learning.
- Staff need to raise aspirations and attainment for young people. This should include more work to ensure professional judgements of achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels across all subjects are sound.
- Staff should have a particular focus on improving the attainment of the middle and highest attaining groups of young people and those in S5 and S6. Staff should also work to improve outcomes in numeracy and in mathematics.

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 Forfar Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
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:

[Forfar Academy | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#).

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 Angus Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Angus 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.

Frances E. Graham
HM Inspector