

18 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Aberdeen 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.

- The very positive relationships between staff and young people, and between young people themselves. This culture of mutual respect underpins all aspects of learning in the school and enables almost all learners to demonstrate the shared vision of working together, learning together and achieving together.
- The highly effective and supportive leadership provided by the headteacher. Together with her senior leaders, she has led and managed change sensitively and successfully. Their use of analysis of evidence and data, consultation with stakeholders and clear communication are key features of the school's change process.
- Across the school there is a strong commitment to working together. Staff are very enthusiastic and highly-motivated to lead change and improvement in learning within and beyond the classroom.
- The widespread and effective use of a virtual learning environment which helps young people to work well independently and enhance further the quality of their learning. This digital learning provides support and consolidation materials that young people can access in and out of school.
- The high quality of attainment and achievement, which is supported well through an extensive range of learning opportunities. As result, very high numbers of young people are developing the skills and attributes to succeed in life and work.

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

- Review approaches to support young people to reflect on their progress across their learning and on their own wellbeing. Staff at all levels should continue to review their practice and provision to meet the needs of all young people better.
- Continue to ensure that high quality learning and teaching is consistent across the school.

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 Aberdeen Grammar School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	very good
Raising attainment and achievement	very 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/aberdeen-city/5244439>

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

Aileen Monaghan
 HM Inspector