

11 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Buchanan 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 and senior leadership team are providing effective leadership. They model very well the vision, values and aims of the school.
- Supported by a wide range of community partners, the school is providing young people with a high quality senior phase curriculum. This is supporting almost all young people to move on successfully into further education, training or employment when they leave school.
- The school has an inclusive, caring and supportive climate in place. Almost all staff have positive relationships with young people. This is enabling almost all young people to engage well in their learning and maintain high levels of school attendance.
- Young people's improved attainment in reading, listening and talking. This is helping young people to participate more fully in learning activities across all areas of the curriculum.

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

- Continue to raise attainment through setting high expectations of what young people can achieve. All teachers need to provide learning activities which are not too easy for higher achieving learners.
- Staff need to continue to develop further their approaches to assessment and shared standards. This will provide more accurate information on young people's progress particularly at the broad general education.

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 Buchanan High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	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/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=1794>

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

Steven McPherson
HM Inspector