

23 February 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

**Castlebrae Community High School
The City of Edinburgh Council**

In March 2011, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. We returned to the school to look at how it had improved its work and published a letter to parents in April 2012. We visited the school again in May 2013 and subsequently published another letter to parents in August 2013. Since then, Education Scotland has continued to engage with the school, and with the City of Edinburgh Council, to monitor progress with the points for action agreed at the time of the inspection.

In August 2014, a new headteacher took up post in a temporary capacity and there have been considerable changes to staffing across the school. The recent permanent appointment of the headteacher has provided some much needed stability for the school.

In November 2015, Education Scotland returned to the school as part of a progress review led by local authority officers. The record of this review visit is available at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20074/schools/1006/school_inspection_reports.

The school has made some important improvements since the original inspection. Improvements had been made to the learning environment and there is now a more positive climate for learning. Across the school, relationships are respectful and young people's behaviour has improved. In most classes, expectations of how well young people can learn and achieve are now higher. Staff make much better use of data to check the progress of pupils. With support from the council, senior staff should continue to ensure that these improvements are sustained and that every reasonable effort is made to ensure greater staffing stability. Staff now need to develop a clearer vision for the curriculum, especially at S3/S4.

Education Scotland will continue to work with the City of Edinburgh Council to support the school and to build its capacity for further improvement. The Area Lead Officer will maintain contact with the school to monitor its progress and will visit the school again by November 2016 in a further review visit led by local authority officers. As part of its arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of education, the City of Edinburgh Council will inform parents about the school's progress.

Alistair Brown
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.