

10 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Dumfries 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 present senior leadership is an enthusiastic team who along with staff are working together to improve the life chances of all their learners. The school's core values of ambition and respect are a positive reference point for learners.
- Staff work well together to build relationships and increase the support for individuals and groups of young people. The aspects of equality and inclusion which are delivered through the S1-S3 curriculum are promoting a greater understanding of diversity and discrimination. This is supporting all young people.
- The partnership working which is enabling young people to access a broader range of learning pathways. This includes Dumfries Learning Town and the rich opportunities offered to extend learning.

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

- Parents, young people and staff should work together to agree the next steps in moving the school forward. A shared improvement plan which outlines the changes and what difference these will make should be developed. All of the school community should be kept informed of the progress of improvements.
- Teachers should agree a shared understanding of what high quality learning and teaching looks like. They should increase the pace of learning and make sure all young people are appropriately challenged in their learning. Staff should focus on increasing attainment at all stages. Learner attainment should be tracked more clearly.
- Staff should review the impact of the support given to young people who experience barriers to learning. This should include a whole school approach to meeting learning needs and detailed plans which support this.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 Dumfries High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

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=2404>

### 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. Dumfries and Galloway Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Ann Floyd  
HM Inspector