

7 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2020, HM Inspectors published a letter on Clyde Valley High School. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and North Lanarkshire Council. We subsequently returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve its work and published another letter in September 2023. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting young people's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

**Improve the strategic leadership of change and improvement across all key areas of the school. Leadership at all levels should be focused on improving outcomes for young people.**

The new headteacher has established a clear, shared vision for school improvement, which is underpinned by the school values. Staff, pupils, and parents report that they have confidence in her leadership. She has gained the trust of the school community.

The headteacher and staff have worked well together to simplify plans to improve the school. This was done in consultation with young people. The outcome was to agree two key areas of priority. These are to increase the attendance of young people and develop classroom approaches to improve attainment. This collegiate approach is leading to a culture of positivity and enthusiasm. Young people feel a sense of belonging and pride in their school.

Young people in the senior stages are taking on more leadership roles, for example, the pupil parliament, the sustainability group, learning ambassadors and the sports council. The headteacher now plans to extend pupil leadership opportunities to include even more young people.

Overall, there is a strong positive culture which is evident across the school. The new headteacher is providing stability and clarity, following a period of considerable change. This has led to the climate of trust and pride which is evident from staff and young people.

**Approaches to learning, teaching and assessment should be more focused on supporting young people's individual learning needs. Staff across the school should develop a shared understanding of high-quality learning, teaching and assessment.**

A group of teachers are leading the work to improve learning, teaching and assessment and there are early signs of progress. Teachers have also worked with young people to agree approaches to making learning more effective. Relationships in classes are positive and almost all young people are polite and behave well. Teachers have had a focus on their own professional learning and this is supporting them to develop their practice.

All staff have been reflecting on how best to meet the needs of individual learners. They are working well together to collate information to help them target supports for young people appropriately. Teachers have also worked together to develop an agreed approach to how lessons are structured. Young people like the new approaches and it is supporting calm and organised class routines. Young people are also positive about the opportunities they are being given to make decisions and offer opinions about improving what happens in classrooms and beyond.

Overall, these changes are improving the learning environment and almost all young people are settled in class and enthusiastic about their learning.

**Improve attainment for young people at all stages, particularly those at S4. This should involve progress in learning being well tracked from S1 to S6. The pace and challenge for learners needs to be reviewed and young people should know their next steps in learning in all areas of the curriculum.**

Staff have had a clear focus on raising attainment and have prioritised young people in the senior phase this year, particularly in S4. The headteacher plans to focus on the younger years as a next step. There remains a continued need to improve attainment for young people at all stages.

Teachers have increased the amount of time spent teaching literacy and numeracy in S1 and S2. These core skills should support learning across the curriculum. In the senior phase, teachers have been undertaking professional learning to support and raise standards and attainment. Identified groups of young people have also been targeted for specific interventions. All of these approaches are beginning to demonstrate improvements in how young people engage in learning. There is also early evidence that young people are making better progress in their learning.

Staff have developed a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching, and this is helping young people to engage better in learning. Teachers are now tracking young people's learning across the school and are working towards a more consistent approach for young people in S1 to S3. Teachers and young people are having regular conversations about learning and targets for improvement. While the pace of learning is improving, the headteacher is aware that young people still need further challenge in their learning.

Young people's attendance is increasing, and this is supporting more effective learning and better achievement. There has been an improved focus by staff on supporting young people into positive career pathways as well as dedicated support for school leavers. This has led to an increase in positive destinations in the latest year.

The headteacher and staff have agreed clear plans to continue to increase attainment year on year. This includes building on current strategies such as learner conversations and making more effective use of data to support young people to achieve.

### What happens next?

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. We recognise that the school needs some more time to implement fully its priorities for improvement. We have asked North Lanarkshire Council to provide us with a report on the school's attainment within 18 months from the publication of this letter. This report will inform any decision made by Education Scotland regarding further engagement. This may include another inspection visit. When such a decision is made, we will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action, agreed with North Lanarkshire Council that we intend to take.

Ann Floyd  
HM Inspector