

11 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Buckie Community 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 engagement of staff at all levels to ensure that young people are provided with a range of experiences both within and outwith the classroom.
- The positive relationships resulting in a supportive climate for learning.
- The calm, nurturing learning environment in the enhanced provision resulting in young people ready to engage in learning.
- Polite, welcoming, young people who are keen to support others in school, their local community and beyond.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and representatives from Moray Council.

- Staff should work together to develop a focused strategic direction. Improve collective leadership at all levels. Taken together these can improve the pace of change.
- Improve the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the school to ensure young people's experiences are of a consistently high quality.
- Staff should review and update curriculum pathways, particularly at S3 to support increased depth of learning in all courses. Young people should be supported well to choose appropriate learning pathways. These pathways need to provide progression and ensure young people can develop the required knowledge and skills whilst supporting their aspirations.
- Continue to improve attainment from S4 to S6.

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 Buckie Community High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	satisfactory
Learning, teaching and assessment	satisfactory
Raising attainment and achievement	weak
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	satisfactory
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=1801>

What happens next?

As a result of our inspection findings we think that the school needs additional support and more time to make necessary improvements. We will liaise with Moray Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within twelve months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with Moray Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents/carers informing you of the progress the school has made.

Marie McAdam
 HM Inspector