

21 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Invergordon Academy. 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 positive and respectful relationships between almost all staff and young people. Most young people are articulate and demonstrate confidence in engaging well with others.
- The variety of opportunities for young people to achieve. Young people speak very positively about the range of skills and improved confidence they gain.
- Effective planning and support for young people as they move on from school. This is leading to almost all young people leaving school to a positive destination.

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

- Address challenging staffing issues and improve young people's experiences in learning, teaching and assessment to ensure their learning needs are met effectively across all curriculum areas.
- Further develop systems for tracking and monitoring young people's progress and attainment. These should support staff in providing appropriate interventions that help young people to maximise their opportunities for success.
- Raise attainment, especially in relation to young people's literacy and numeracy qualifications and their attainment in S4.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using 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 Invergordon Academy

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	weak
Raising attainment and achievement	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:

[Reports page](#) | [Inspection reports](#) | [Education Scotland](#).

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 The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within one year of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland 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.

Celia McArthur
HM Inspector