

11 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In December 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Fortrose 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 calm and purposeful environment for learning which is resulting in young people working very well independently. Young people also play an active role in supporting others in the local community.
- The highly effective use of digital technology which is enhancing learning experiences for young people across the curriculum.
- The attainment of young people in National Qualifications. This is consistently in line with or above other schools who have learners with similar needs and backgrounds across Scotland.

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

- Ensure learning across the curriculum, particularly from S1 to S3, takes better account of what young people already know through an integrated approach to learning, teaching, assessment and moderation. This should help to ensure that all tasks and activities are better matched to the needs of all young people.
- Build on existing practice to developing approaches for checking the progress that learners are making, particularly from S1 to S3, to ensure all young people make appropriate progress.

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

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</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=2638>

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

Frances E Graham  
HM Inspector