

28 May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In March 2019, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Castle Douglas 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.

- Confident, articulate and respectful young people who are keen to learn and exhibit a sense of pride in their school. They are supported well by staff to attain and achieve and as a result, almost all go on to a positive sustained destination on leaving school.
- After a period of instability, the wider leadership team led by the head teacher, is now well placed to drive forward planned improvements, building on the examples of highly effective practice which exist in the school.

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

- Continue to develop the understanding of all staff of their key role in leading and managing change. Develop a shared understanding across all staff of what consistently high quality learning and teaching looks like in Castle Douglas High School.
- Continue to develop approaches to planning for, assessing and checking the progress of young people across all stages.

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 Castle Douglas High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
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/inspection-reports/dumfries-and-galloway/5918030>

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.

Jacqueline Nimmo
HM Inspector