

25 April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Langholm 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.

- There are positive relationships between staff and young people, creating a warm, supportive and calm learning environment across the school community. This is underpinned by the recently reviewed school vision, values and aims.
- School staff's commitment to improve the education provision across the school. This includes systems to improve learning and teaching and monitor young people's progress in learning.
- There are positive improvements in literacy and numeracy levels in the Broad General Education and in the Senior phase resulting in greater success for young people.

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

- Senior leaders, middle leaders and school staff should continue with their plans to improve learning, teaching and assessment. These should take account of the views of young people and make sure they experience the right level of challenge in their learning
- Senior leaders and staff should, as planned, work with young people, parents and key partners to increase levels of ambition and aspiration for young people in Langholm Academy. This includes a focus on higher quality passes in national qualifications and access to a broader curriculum.

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 Langholm Academy

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:

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

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.

Teri McIntosh
HM Inspector