

6 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2023, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Newbattle 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 headteacher has a clear focus on improving attainment and achievement and is supported by senior and middle leaders effectively. This is improving outcomes for young people who are impacted by social and economic disadvantage.
- Staff make skilful use of digital technology to enhance young people's learning experiences. This is helping to develop young people's skills and is encouraging them to reflect on their learning.
- Staff work with a range of partners effectively to support improved outcomes for young people. These include ensuring all young people achieve and develop important skills towards positive destinations.

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

- Senior leaders should ensure all staff apply a shared understanding of high-quality learning and teaching to their practice. Staff should have high expectations of all young people and plan tasks which are appropriately challenging to meet the needs of all.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to raise the attainment of all young people. Importantly, they should improve the number and quality of National Qualification passes by young people in S4 and S5.
- Senior leaders and staff should continue to develop approaches to improving young people's attendance at 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 Newbattle High School

| Quality indicators | Evaluation |
|---|---------------------|
| Learning, teaching and assessment | good |
| 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:

[Details](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Find an inspection report](#) | [Inspection and Review](#) | [Education Scotland](#).

What happens next?

We will ask Midlothian Council for a report on progress with the agreed areas for improvement within eighteen months of the publication of this letter. Taking account of the progress report, we will then decide whether further engagement with the school is required. This may involve another inspection visit. Midlothian Council will write to you again detailing the improvements the school has made and outlining any further action that we intend to take, as agreed with Midlothian Council

Mr Graham Parry
HM Inspector