

ANGUS COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

23 SEPTEMBER 2014

BRECHIN HIGH SCHOOL: FOLLOW-THROUGH REPORT SUMMARY

In June 2012, HM Inspectors published a report on Brechin High School. In March 2014, HMI visited the school again and a further follow-through letter was published on 29 April 2014. This letter highlights progress, strengths and areas for improvement.

Progress and Strengths:

1. The majority of young people enjoy school and most benefit from positive relationships with their teachers.
2. Very recent improvements in ethos were noted.
3. The reintroduction of a school uniform has been successful
4. There have been some improvements in the quality of young people's learning experiences. More staff now share the aims of lessons with pupils successfully.
5. Many young people continue to achieve success across a wide range of sporting and cultural activities. Many young people improve their confidence and performance skills in bands, choirs and orchestral groups organised by staff.
6. The proportion of young people who left school and moved on to positive destinations showed some promising signs of improvement in 2013.

Areas for improvement

1. There is still work to be done to improve the quality and consistency of young people's learning experiences across the school. Staff should encourage pupils to take greater responsibility for their own learning.
2. Higher expectations for young people's learning and behaviour need to be shared more widely.
3. There is considerable scope to improve the quality of presentation of young people's written work.
4. Staff should improve their approaches for gathering information about young people's achievements in and out of school to raise levels of participation and achievement further.
5. Overall, the attainment of young people in national examinations continues to be below national averages and schools which serve pupils with similar needs and backgrounds.

Summary

The inspection noted the recent very promising signs of an improvement in ambition and morale across the school had not yet had time to make an impact. Education Scotland will work with Angus Council to build capacity for improvement, and will maintain contact to monitor progress. Education

Scotland will return to carry out another further inspection within a year of publication of this letter. A further letter to parents on the extent to which the school has improved will be issued.

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