

13 December 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2016 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Cardinal Newman High School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the quality of leadership, learning and teaching, young people's achievements and wellbeing.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- Under the leadership of the headteacher, staff work together well to improve outcomes for young people. Teachers at all levels are taking on leadership roles to take forward school improvement.
- The nurturing, caring ethos of the school, underpinned by strong Catholic values. Positive relationships between young people and staff are resulting in a calm and orderly learning environment where young people feel cared for and respected.
- The contribution the pupil support department makes to enhancing young people's wellbeing and ensuring the best outcomes possible for all.
- The work of the physical education department to improve young people's health and wellbeing. It has increased participation particularly by girls and strengthened the work on resilience across the school.
- Partnership working which is enhancing the curriculum and young people's personal achievements. This is enabling young people to participate in motivating and relevant learning such as the Snapdragon restaurant and by developing and leading programmes of physical activity in local primary schools.
- Improvements in attainment in the senior school. In particular, the work to improve equity and support all learners to achieve more highly.

The following areas for improvement were agreed with the headteacher and a representative from North Lanarkshire Council:

- Continue to improve learning and teaching across the school to ensure young people experience consistently high quality learning that meets their needs.
- Continue to develop approaches to assessing and monitoring young people's progress in the broad general education to ensure all young people make appropriate progress.
- Continue to strengthen self-evaluation across the school to secure further improvements.

Quality indicators help schools, education authorities and inspectors to judge what is good and what needs to be improved in the work of the school. You can find these quality indicators in the publication *How good is our school*¹? Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers evaluations of quality indicators to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Cardinal Newman High School

Leadership of change	Good
Learning, teaching and assessment	Good
Raising attainment and achievement	Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	Good

The letter and a more detailed summary of inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/primsec/CardinalNewmanHighSchoolNorthLanarkshire.asp>.

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

Mary Byrne
HM Inspector

¹ How good is our school? (4th Edition) 2015 [How good is our school? \(fourth edition\)](#)

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