

24 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In October 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Deans Community 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 leadership of the headteacher, supported ably by the senior management team. They have empowered and motivated all members of the school community. Staff work very well together to drive forward school improvement and initiate change.
- The extended leadership team's role in supporting the senior management team to monitor and improve the work of departments and the school.
- The strong emerging work of the Skills Academy programme, which is encouraging young people to reflect on their skills related to the world of work.
- Staff's approach to supporting young people's wellbeing. Strong and respectful relationships between staff and young people help young people to feel valued and included. Young people have a strong understanding of their wellbeing.

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

- Continue to improve the consistency of learning, teaching and assessment, especially ensuring tasks and activities meet the needs of all young people.
- Improve the quality of young people's success across their qualifications and focus specifically on improving young people's attainment in literacy.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four 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 Deans Community High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Leadership of change	very good
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion	very 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: [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. West Lothian Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Celia McArthur
HM Inspector