

23 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In February 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited North Berwick 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 is a highly effective leader who is well respected by young people, staff, parents and partners. Her leadership is characterised by openness and trust, promoting empowerment in a supportive ethos. The senior leadership team provides clear direction and extensive opportunities for staff to work well together. The quality of leadership at all levels is strong with staff using effective research activities to support increasingly creative learning and teaching.
- The developing range of well-informed and innovative approaches to learning and teaching and assessment are supporting young people at all stages to take responsibility for their own learning.
- A range of targeted strategies are supporting young people to respond effectively to personal challenges. In particular, young people with support from the school and partners, are creating an open climate to discuss mental health.
- Young people's attainment, particularly at S5 and S6.

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

- Continue with the improvements to the planning of learning, teaching and assessment from S1 to S3.
- Review approaches for checking the progress of young people's wellbeing.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using four quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). 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 North Berwick High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>very good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>good</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:

<https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=3875>

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

Marie McAdam  
HM Inspector