

31 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

In January 2020, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Augustine's 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 strong focus of the headteacher on empowering staff to lead initiatives which improve experiences for learners. Staff are well supported in engaging in professional learning to develop their capability and capacity which has a direct impact on outcomes for young people.
- The school ethos is supporting learners to become highly motivated. Young people have belief in their own ability to succeed, persevere when they face difficulty and welcome challenge in their learning. They respond positively to the encouragement and support they receive.
- The wellbeing and development of young people is at the heart of the school's vision. Young people facing barriers to their learning are supported well. The school benefits from its rich cultural diversity.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The City of Edinburgh Council.

- Senior leaders should continue to strengthen the approaches to self-evaluation to ensure that robust and rigorous evidence is gathered across the school. This should provide them with a clearer overview of actions to secure improvement.
- A more rigorous and consistent approach to assessment and to tracking and monitoring will support learners' make progress in their learning. This will enable young people to better understand how well they are doing and what they need to do to improve.
- Continue to pursue strategies to improve attainment and increase educational aspirations for young people. The school should also ensure that every young person has an increased range of opportunities for personal achievement.

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 St Augustine's High School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Leadership of change</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion</b>	<b>very 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=4460>

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

Teri McIntosh  
 HM Inspector