



St Kentigern's Academy

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Head Teacher:
Mr Andrew Sharkey

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC

Tuesday, 29th August 2017

Dear Parent / Carer

I am delighted to be able to share with you our report following the school's inspection by Education Scotland in April.

We are very pleased by their findings and are rightly proud of our students, staff and community.

There are so many strengths noted in their findings and I hope you and your family will find time to read the report and celebrate our shared success. Praise has been given across the board and highlights include staff commitment, the inclusion of students from all backgrounds in our school life, and the vision and high expectations of the leaders in the school.

On the publishing of the report we have been commended on our 'very positive' report from executive councillor for education, David Dodds. Archbishop Cushley also contacted our school to give his warmest congratulations on our success.

I would like to thank all our parents/carers and staff for their continued support of the school, as I have no doubt that this report could not have been achieved without everyone's ongoing help and co-operation. We look forward to working with you to continue delivering the very best education and opportunities we can for all of the young people in our care.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Sharkey
Head Teacher

29 August 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2017 a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited St Kentigern's Academy. 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 and young people's achievements and wellbeing.

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

- The leadership of the headteacher in taking forward his vision for change, building the capacity of staff at all levels and setting high expectations to encourage a climate of continuous improvement.
- The commitment of staff in ensuring young people from all backgrounds are fully included in every aspect of school life.
- The impact on young people's learning from the team of pupil support workers. The benefit to young people of effective partnerships with teaching staff and the support workers' skills in engaging and supporting young people.
- The benefit to young people of the range of learning pathways available from S4 to S6 that suit their needs and aspirations. This includes an increased range of options leading to qualifications both within school as well as at college and neighbouring schools.
- The quality of enhanced transition arrangements and support which is helping young people with autism make a successful transition to the school and enabling them to participate in mainstream classes.

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

- Continue to build the leadership capacity of staff at all levels to create a more consistent high-quality strategic approach to school improvement.
- Develop a strategic overview within pupil support to ensure careful and appropriate allocation of resources to ensure all young people are fully supported.
- Further develop approaches to monitor and track learner progress to make sure there is timely, reliable data on the attainment of every learner. Staff could then consider how to put in place mechanisms to share this with young people and their parents.

- Continue to review the broad general education provision. Learning pathways through S3 and into the senior phase need to provide a smooth transition into courses leading to qualifications.

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 St Kentigern's Academy

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

The letter and more detailed summarised inspection findings will be available on the Education Scotland website at <https://www.education.gov.scot/reports/west-lothian/5509939>

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.

Ann Floyd
HM Inspector

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

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