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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

**Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Brownlow Integrated College
Craigavon**

May 2012

A SECOND FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF BROWNLOW INTEGRATED COLLEGE, LURGAN, CO ARMAGH, BT65 5BS (525-0216)

The original standard inspection of Brownlow Integrated College took place in October 2009. The inspection identified the need for improvement in a number of key areas, including the standards achieved in public examinations, the strategic management of the pastoral and curriculum provision and the overall quality of learning and teaching.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection (FUI) in May 2011 and noted improvement in the quality of the teaching observed, the more strategic role of the senior leadership team (SLT), the good strategic management of the pastoral curriculum, the targeted staff development and the positive impact of the mentoring scheme on the pupils' attitudes to learning and achievement. The FUI identified the following areas for improvement:

- to raise the standards achieved by the pupils at General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) level, in particular, the proportion achieving at least five GCSE subjects at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics; and
- to ensure that the learning experiences for all of the pupils are consistently good or better.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in March 2012 and a second FUI in May 2012.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the FUI findings in May 2011 was of a good quality and the school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

In the interval since the FUI in 2011 important actions have taken place which affect the work of the school. These include:

- the number of teaching staff has been reduced by one and the school's enrolment has decreased from 413 in 2011 to 387 in 2012;
- the subject departments have implemented a computerised system to track the progress of the pupils through key stage 3;
- the school has introduced curriculum clinics for the parents of the pupils identified as underachieving in year 12;
- the parents of the pupils in years 11 and 12 have been engaged in the mentoring programme; and
- the teachers have taken part in an extensive range of staff development, which included the sharing of good practice through excellent facilitation by the link officer of the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Southern Education and Library Board.

The most important improvements since the previous FUI are:

- the increase in the proportion of pupils attaining grades A*-C in five or more subjects at GCSE, from 38.5% to 59.8% and in the proportion of pupils attaining grades A*-C in five or more subjects, including English and mathematics, from 17.7% to 26.4%;

- the highly effective mentoring programme, which has improved the pupils' positive attitudes and dispositions to learning by the end of year 12; and
- the effectiveness of the whole-school working groups in contributing to whole-school improvement; and
- the strategic leadership of the Principal, Vice-principal and SLT in raising the standards attained by the pupils.

There remains a need to:

- improve further the standards attained by the pupils at GCSE level, particularly in mathematics.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified an area for improvement but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address this.

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