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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**

**Drumglass High School  
Dungannon**

**May 2013**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF DRUMGLASS HIGH SCHOOL, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE, BT71 4AA (521-0231)**

The standard inspection of Drumglass High School, carried out in April 2011, evaluated the quality of education provided as satisfactory and highlighted a range of strengths in behaviour and learning, standards, careers education, information, advice and guidance; and the integration of the newcomer pupils and their contribution to the life of the school.

The areas for improvement included the need to develop the inadequate leadership and management, including the working relationships across the school; to develop, and implement consistently, monitoring and evaluation processes; and to plan effectively the priorities for improvement. The quality of the provision in mathematics was evaluated as inadequate.

In the interval since the inspection, the school has received effective support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Southern Education and Library Board. A new Principal was appointed in November 2012; and a new vice-principal in March 2013.

The most important improvements since the inspection include:

- the hard work and commitment of the leadership, specifically the Principal and vice-principal, who have led the development of a more collegiate approach to, and responsibility for, school improvement;
- the better working relationships and communication across the school in general and, in particular, within the senior leadership team, in working to address the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection;
- the introduction of more systematic monitoring and evaluation processes, including the use of assessment data, to track the pupils' progress and to identify and share good practice within and across departments; and
- the improved learning and teaching in mathematics under the very effective leadership of the head of department which has resulted in good standards being attained by the pupils at General Certificate of Secondary Education level (GCSE) in 2012.

The school's action plan in response to the inspection has taken appropriate account of the areas for improvement and informed the school development plan, which meets the Education (School Development Plans) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010.

At the time of the original inspection the percentage of year 12 pupils obtaining grades A\* to C in at least 5 subjects, including English and mathematics, was above the average for similar schools.

In 2012, 63% of the pupils attained five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C, and 35% attained five or more GCSEs, including English and mathematics, at grades A\*-C. While there has been variation in GCSE standards, the results in 2012 have fallen to below the average for similar non-selective schools.

As the school continues to develop its monitoring and evaluation processes, it will be important to have a sharper focus on identifying low and underachievement, and on raising attainment at GCSE level.

In the lessons observed during the interim follow-up visits and the follow-up inspection, the quality of the learning and teaching ranged from outstanding to satisfactory. In the more effective practice, the teachers made the learning interesting and challenging, the pupils were motivated and engaged and those who required additional help with aspects of their learning were well supported by the staff and their peers. On a few occasions the intended learning outcomes were unclear and the work was not matched to the needs and abilities of the pupils.

It continues to be important that the employing authority, governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school's sixth form provision in order to address the current and future needs of the pupils and the staff.

Overall, the quality of education provided by the school remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision.

The follow-up inspection has identified an area for improvement in standards, through a continued development of the effectiveness of the improved leadership and management arrangements, which needs to be addressed if the school is to meet effectively the needs of all of the pupils.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will carry out a further follow-up inspection within the next 12-18 months and a report will be published.

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