



*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

**Newtownbreda High School
Belfast**

December 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF NEWTOWNBRED A HIGH SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT8 6PY (421-0183)

The original standard inspection of Newtownbreda High School in November 2006 evaluated the provision as satisfactory and identified the need for improvement in a number of key areas, including in the standards achieved in public examinations and in the development of the arrangements for self-evaluation leading to improvement.

In the intervening period, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) has carried out three follow-up inspections (FUI) in March 2009, in November 2010 and again in September 2011 in each of which the quality of the provision was evaluated as satisfactory and the school continued to work on the areas for improvement.

The action plan produced by the school is of a satisfactory quality and the school's development plan is in line with the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

In the interval since the last inspection there have been a significant number of staff changes which include the departure of a number of staff through voluntary redundancies, and the new appointments of a Vice-principal for curriculum, a senior teacher with responsibilities including monitoring the mentoring system, the appointment of the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator to the Senior Leadership Team, and the appointment of a Head of English. The nature of the school's intake has altered with an increase in the percentage of pupils presenting with literacy, numeracy and behavioural learning difficulties on the special educational needs register (from 39% to 54%) and an increase in the number of newcomers. The school has introduced a week-long summer scheme for those pupils intending to enter year 8 with a noticeable confidence reported in the year 8 intake. The school has recently entered the Extended Schools' Programme.

The quality of learning and teaching observed during the FUI ranged from very good or satisfactory, the majority of which was good or better.

The improvements since the last FUI in September 2011 have been led through effective monitoring and challenge provided by the Principal to heads of department leading to the sharper implementation by the majority of subject departments of the system for tracking individual pupil performance and the provision of well targeted mentoring in year 12. As a result, there has been an increase in the percentage of pupils gaining General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) grades A*-C in five or more subjects (from 42% to 49%) which remains below the NI Average; the percentage of pupils gaining GCSE grades A*-C in five or more subjects including English and mathematics has also increased (from 20% to 29%) which is almost in line with the average. A significant minority of subjects have increased their results above the average; and good progress is being made by those pupils obtaining literacy and numeracy support with 37% of pupils no longer requiring literacy support and 41% no longer requiring numeracy support

Examination results have improved steadily since the time of the original inspection.

GCSE and GCSE equivalent subjects - *following permitted exclusions	Percentage of Year 12 obtaining Grades C or above in at least 5 subjects	Percentage of Year 12 obtaining Grades C or above in at least 5 subjects including GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics
2012	49	29
2011	42	20
2010	35	20
2009	30	16
2008	36	N/A
2007	29	N/A
2006	35	N/A

The remaining areas for improvement are:

- the need to consolidate the recent changes in the leadership roles and to build and distribute further, across senior and middle management, both the capacity and responsibility for leading improvement; and
- the need to sustain and raise further the improving standards in public examinations consistently in all subjects, for all the pupils across the full age and ability range.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is satisfactory; the strengths, which have led to improvement since the last inspection, outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for continuing improvement in standards, learning and teaching and leadership and management which need to be addressed if the needs of all of the learners are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2013

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website:
www.etini.gov.uk

