

Report

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| Report to: | Hamilton Area Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 29 November 2023 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Education Resources) |

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| Subject: | Education Scotland Report - Hamilton Grammar School |
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise of the outcome of the inspection of Hamilton Grammar School by Education Scotland inspectors

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Education Scotland report on Hamilton Grammar School published on 3 October 2023 be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Hamilton Grammar School was inspected in October 2022 as part of a national sample of secondary education.
- 3.2. As part of the revised approach to inspection, the Education Scotland inspectors undertook the short inspection model, which evaluated learning, teaching and assessment; and raising attainment and achievement.
- 3.3. The inspection team analysed questionnaires issued to a sample of parents, pupils and to all staff. Inspectors observed class lessons and interviewed groups of pupils, including the pupil council, and staff. Members of the inspection team also met parents and members of the local community.
- 3.4. The report by Education Scotland was published on 3 October 2023.

4. Finding of HM inspectors

4.1. Education Scotland made comment under the following headings:-

- ♦ Quality indicator (2.3) - learning teaching and assessment
- ♦ Quality indicator (3.2) - attainment and achievement

4.2. The particular strengths of the school were identified as follows:-

- ◆ The strong caring ethos, led by the headteacher and supported by all staff. The school values of 'equality, commitment, respect and inclusion' are reflected in daily interactions in school. This creates a very nurturing environment for learning.
- ◆ The School Improvement Teams, Equity Team and Integrated Support Team provide a wide range of support which is beginning to have a positive impact on young people's numeracy, literacy and employability skills.
- ◆ Staff have a clear focus on ensuring young people attain well. They have been successful at maintaining, and at times increasing, levels of attainment in S4 and S5. This is supported by effective processes for ensuring that young people are on track to achieve.

4.3. Education Scotland identified the following areas for continued improvement:-

- ◆ All staff should continue to develop approaches to learning and teaching, with a focus on S1 to S3, to enable all young people to have consistently high-quality experiences.
- ◆ Senior leaders should ensure there is a clear overview of young people's progress and attainment in S1 to S3. This will provide staff with the necessary evidence to support young people to achieve fully their potential.
- ◆ Staff should monitor and track the range of activities and skills young people develop through their participation in activities out-with class.

4.4. As well as welcoming the strengths of the school it should be noted that the areas for continued improvement have already been incorporated into the school's planning for improvement, this will be further communicated via the school's usual communication channels.

4.5. Education Scotland have intimated that they are very confident that the school will be able to take forward the areas for improvement and will make no more visits in connection with this report. The school are in a very strong position to be able to return to pre-pandemic levels of attainment with a particular focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap.

4.6. Additional inspection evidence can be accessed by clicking the following web link:-
[Details | Find an inspection report | Find an inspection report | Inspection and Review | Education Scotland](#)

5. Employee Implications

5.1. None.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. None.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. None.

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report which is provided for information only.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. There is no requirement to carry out an assessment in terms of the proposals contained within this report.

- 9.2. The content of Education Scotland reports are shared with parents and discussed at Parent Council meetings and are publicly available.

Carole McKenzie
Executive Director (Education Resources)

23 October 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ Inspiring learning, transforming learners, strengthening partnerships.

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Education Scotland Report of Hamilton Grammar School Report of 3 October 2023

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-
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