

Report

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Report to:	Cambuslang and Rutherglen Area Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 November 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	HMle Report – Rutherglen High 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 Rutherglen High School by HMle Inspectors

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) to note the HMle Report on Rutherglen High School

3. Background

3.1. Rutherglen High School was inspected in January 2011 as part of a national sample of additional support needs education.

3.2. HM Inspectors evaluated improvements in performance, learners' experiences, the curriculum, how well the school meets the learning needs of pupils, the effectiveness of the schools processes of self-evaluation and its capacity for improvement.

3.3 The inspection team analysed questionnaires issued to a sample of parents, pupils and to all staff. Inspectors observed class lesson, interviewed groups of pupils and staff.

3.4. The report by HM Inspectorate was published on 1 March 2011.

4. Findings of HM Inspectors

4.1. HMle made comment under the following headings:

- Particular strengths of the school
- How well do young people learn and achieve?
- How well do staff work with others to support young people's learning?
- Are staff and young people actively involved in improving their school community?
- Does the school have high expectations of all young people?
- Does the school have a clear sense of direction?

4.2 HM Inspectors found that Rutherglen High School provided young people with access to a broad curriculum to help prepare them well for moving to life beyond school. All young people have very good opportunities to learn important skills for

work through the world of work programme and the very well-managed transitions to college or employment.

- 4.3 Across the school, almost all young people are motivated and engage well in their learning. They feel safe and happy in school. The house system gives young people a sense of belonging and helps build relationships within and beyond the school community.
- 4.4 Relationships between staff and young people are very positive. Staff understand their responsibilities for the care and welfare of young people, including child protection issues. Staff promote positive behaviour effectively and most young people respond well to their expectations.
- 4.5 Young people are given many opportunities to be involved in a range of activities, for example through contributing to sporting and charity events, such as the Special Olympics and fundraising for charities, taking part in aspects of South Lanarkshire's Youth Learning Programme where they develop skills in coaching sports. Young people in the senior part of the school help nursery school children with reading skills which help develop their own social and communication skills and they receive accreditation for this. Groups of young people benefit from an annual residential trip where they learn social and team building skills by interacting with peers from other additional support needs establishments.
- 4.6 Young people benefit from accredited work experience at local businesses. Some have achieved part-time and permanent employment as a result of their performance. All young people progress to college or employment on leaving school.
- 4.7 In addition to the above, HMIe identified the following as key strengths of the school:
- Young people's motivation and enthusiasm for learning.
 - The supportive ethos and positive relations among staff and young people.
 - Preparation of young people for the world of work, skills for life and college.
 - The range of business partnerships within and beyond the local community.
- 4.8 HMI identified the following as areas for improvement with the school and education authority:
- Develop systems to improve learning and teaching, attainment and achievement and meeting learning needs.
 - Raise expectations and promote challenge for learners.
 - Improve effective links across the campus schools.
 - Develop across the school approaches to self-evaluation.
- 4.9 These points for action have been incorporated into an improvement action plan. The plan will also address other areas for development identified in the inspectors' report. Progress on the identified action points will be shared with parents.
- 4.10 HMI have intimated that they are confident that the school, with support from the education authority, will be able to make the necessary improvements and will make no more visits in connection with this inspection.

5. Employee Implications

None

6. Financial Implications

None

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report which is provided for information only.
- 7.2 There are no significant sustainability issues in connection with the recommendations contained within this report.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

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

Larry Forde
Executive Director (Education Resources)

19 October 2011

Link(s) to Council Values/Improvement Themes/Objectives

- Raise educational attainment for all
- Increase involvement in lifelong learning
- Improve the lives of vulnerable children, young people and adults
- Improve health and increase physical activity

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- HMle Report of 1 March 2011

Contact for Further Information

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

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