



26th September

Follow-up Inspection of Lockerbie Academy

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had verbal feedback from the inspection team. They noted lots of progress and had much praise for the work done and the difference we have made since their last visit. The overall outcome is that they will return in 12 months because our SQA results are not yet strong enough. They believe we need more time to continue the work we are doing, (which they agree with and have suggestions for further improvement) to show further increases in attainment.

We are disappointed that they have seen so much that they are pleased with but will still need to re-visit us. We are clear on the work we will do and are already doing, to make the difference they want to see. Our entries in subjects across all measures are high and our work now is to work in partnership with you, the parent/carers to support us as we push for higher levels of attainment. It will be some time until I receive a letter from HMIE to issue to parents/carers, but I wanted to share this information with you now.

So what am I asking you to support us to do?

- Effort – pupils need to be working hard enough now. It is not correct that the real effort comes towards exams. Our data shows that those who are succeeding now and scoring highly in their classwork/homework/assessments, continue that all year. It is very difficult to be slow-paced now and suddenly speed up at exam time. Please therefore ensure that effort is being put in now to study and improving skills
- Attendance – we are working on a new policy on attendance. There is a clear link between a high level of attendance and a high level of success in exams. Those who did best had attendance of 95% or above. Please support us in keeping levels of attendance as high as possible
- Talk to your teen about their studies – I do not write this lightly. Two children of mine have been through the education system 5-10 years ago and I did not always find this easy. However, your interest as parents/carers in their work has been shown to improve their motivation and feeling of value

We do not have time to wait for the findings letter to come out. The message is clear. Raise attainment. We are putting all our efforts towards this aim and will be in regular communication with you about it.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Asher
Headteacher

