



Executive Director of
Education
Douglas Hutchison

Education Services
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers East Building
40 John Street
Glasgow G1 1JL

Phone **0141 287 4551**
Our Ref DH/WC/SW
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If phoning please ask for Douglas Hutchison
email Douglas.Hutchison@glasgow.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Inspection Report: Holyrood Secondary School

Holyrood Secondary School was inspected by Education Scotland in October 2023 as part of the national inspection programme. The report on the inspection was published on December 2023.

As a result of the very good performance, the strong record of improvement and the effective leadership of the establishment, Education Scotland advised that they did not intend to make any further visits or reports in relation to this inspection. Therefore, an action plan was prepared by the school, and Glasgow City Council was asked to oversee and report on progress.

The following provides a summary of the progress made in relation to the areas for improvement which were identified and discussed with Education Scotland, the senior leadership team of the establishment and education services.

Staff should continue to build on the strong, consistent approaches to teaching. This should include ensuring all young people are appropriately challenged and given more opportunities to lead their learning.

In October 2024, Holyrood Secondary School was accredited as an Unicef UK Gold: Rights Respecting School, the highest stage of the award. The school was praised for its approach to pupil voice and participation, including involving young people in the process of creating evidence to present for the award.

The school achieved the Gold School Sport Award from Sports Scotland, in recognition of its commitment to continuously improve physical education and school sport opportunities. There are increased opportunities for young people to lead, coach, officiate and influence sport in the school.

The staff continue to work in Teacher Learning Communities, leading to enhanced reflection on teaching and learning approaches, skilled use of questioning and feedback, and enhanced pupil engagement .

The school's pupil voice strategy continues to improve, with young people beginning to be involved in observations of learning and teaching.

A systematic approach to learning conversations is now fully embedded for all young people, leading to enhanced questioning skills, improvements in reflections on learning, development of a shared language and strengthened relationships.

Interdisciplinary learning has been introduced into the school's BGE curriculum, which is helping young people develop a holistic understanding of their learning and the world, and is nurturing critical thinking, creativity, problem solving and communication skills.

Building on recent successful changes in the English and Mathematics departments, staff should continue to improve young people's performance in literacy and numeracy in the senior phase.

In this year's SQA examinations results were strong and the school continues to outperform their virtual comparator in the majority of areas across S4, S5 and S6.

Attainment in S5 is the highest on record with 23% of young people gaining 5 or more Highers.

Numeracy and Literacy at Level 4 are in line with the virtual comparator.

The school's Leavers Destinations figures continue to be above the National Average with 98% of young people going into positive destination

Overall, Holyrood Secondary School has made very good progress in meeting the main areas for improvement. Education Services will therefore not provide any further report in connection with the original report of 12 December 2023 but will continue to monitor and support the establishment as part of our commitment to ensuring the highest quality of education for all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Hutchison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

DOUGLAS HUTCHISON
Executive Director of Education

cc Head of Service
 Senior Education Officer
 Quality Improvement Officer