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*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

**Dundonald High School
Belfast**

June 2010

SECOND FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DUNDONALD HIGH SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT16 1TH (421-0262)

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on the 20 and 21 March 2009 which highlighted important improvements since the standard inspection which included the mentoring programme for pupils, the introduction of revision classes, the increase in parental involvement and the improved working relationships between the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the staff. In the following key areas, the follow-up inspection identified:

- the need to build on the improvement in standards expected and achieved across the school, including the performance in public examinations;
- as identified in the School Development Plan, the need to make more effective use of performance data and evidence gained from monitoring to set targets and improve further the outcomes for the pupil; and
- the need to improve the attendance record for all years.

In the interval since the follow up inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- the school entered the Formal Intervention Process;
- there has been in-service training for staff on the use of data delivered by the Curriculum Advisory Support Service (CASS) and leadership and management training for SLT provided by Regional Training Unit (RTU);
- there have been increased opportunities for staff development including the creation of data, assessment and curriculum committees;
- the continued review of revision booklets by departments;
- the use of diagnostic testing at the start and end of years 8 and 10;
- the introduction of an attendance surgery and the review to monitor attendance by heads of year; and
- the refurbishment of the school building and circulation areas.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up inspection visit (IFUIV) and a follow-up inspection on 8 June 2010.

The action plans produced by the school in response to the follow-up inspection findings were of a good quality.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the follow-up inspection findings and meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education (DE).

The following are important improvements since the follow-up inspection:

- there has been a significant increase from 15% in 2008 to 29% in 2009, in the percentage of pupils gaining A*-C in five or more subjects at General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE);

- there has been a significant increase from 6% in 2008 to 16% in 2009, in the percentage of pupils gaining A*-C in five or more subjects at GCSE including English and mathematics;
- the percentage attendance has risen from 82% in 07/08 to 88% in 09/10;
- a satisfactory start has been made to the use of internal and external data to monitor the progress and improvement made by the pupils; and
- the quality of the teaching was good or better in the majority of the lessons observed.

The following areas for improvement still need to be addressed:

- the need to continue to raise standards across the school, including performance in public examinations which, despite the upward trend remain well below the standards of similar schools; and
- the need to make more use of quantitative data to inform classroom practice and improve further the outcomes of the pupils.

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now satisfactory. However, important areas for improvement in standards, and learning and teaching, remain to be addressed if the needs of all the learners are to be met effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

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