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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



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Newtownbreda High School
Belfast

March 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF NEWTOWNBREDA HIGH SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT8 6PY (421-0183)

The standard inspection in November 2006 highlighted strengths including the hard-working and committed teachers, the work of the Curriculum Committee in supporting the strategic development of the work of the school and the excellent work observed in the Pupil Support Centre. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the further improvement in standards including those achieved in public examinations;
- the development of the arrangements for self-evaluation to include a more extensive use of quantitative data including any relevant benchmarking; and
- the need to ensure the consistent implementation of effective strategies to promote good behaviour in the circulation and outdoor areas to support the pupils' learning and development.

In the interval since the inspection:

- there has been a slight increase from 35% to 36% in the percentage of pupils gaining A*-C in five or more subjects at General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE);
- there has been a slight increase from 16% to 18% in the percentage of pupils gaining A*-C in five or more subjects at GCSE including English and mathematics; and
- there has been a slight increase from 97% to 100% in the percentage of pupils achieving grades A- E in at least two subjects at General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced (A) Level.

The following action which affects the work of the school has taken place:

- a large number of new heads of departments have been appointed;
- all departments have developed at least one resource to improve standards;
- staff have undergone training in self-evaluation;
- increased staff monitoring of pupils' behaviour in corridors;
- the creation of a 'Promotion of Positive Discipline Working Group'; and
- the introduction of two new subjects at A Level, Applied Science and Leisure Studies.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 4 and 5 March 2009 and three monitoring visits in the interim period.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

Satisfactory progress has been made in the some of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The following are important improvements since the original inspection:

- the implementation of effective strategies to promote good behaviour in the circulation and outdoor areas;
- the comprehensive curriculum review and report compiled by Principal and senior teacher; and
- the good use made of quantitative data, such as the year 11 information system, to monitor standards.

Since the inspection, the school evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Important areas still remain for improvement:

- the need to further improve standards including in particular those achieved at key stage 4; and
- the need to monitor and implement strategies to address the standards achieved by girls.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this organisation remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision.

The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the organisation's progress in addressing the remaining area for improvement.

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