

## VISION AND LEADERSHIP

### **How good is our leadership?**

Overall, the quality of our work in this area is Good

#### Key Strengths

- There is a clear strategic direction and a sense of openness and transparency that transcends all levels and remits of staff.
- There are increasingly focused actions on agreed priorities for improvement.
- There is a clear, coherent vision for the school community. This is shared regularly and is central to everything we do as a school.

#### Areas for Improvement

- A more structured approach needs to be taken to developing leadership.

### **Priorities for inclusion in the 2016/2017 Improvement plan**

- Raising attainment — this will be achieved by improving the quality and consistency of learning and teaching, ensuring data is used effectively to improve outcomes for young people and the delivery of an effective, relevant curriculum.
- Improving self-evaluation — this will be achieved by ensuring self-evaluation becomes integral to all we do as a school, that self-evaluation leads to improvements and by engaging stakeholders in the evaluation of all we do.
- Changing the culture of Brechin High School — this will be achieved by embedding the new vision, values and aim in all we do and involving all stakeholders in leading change.

## Brechin High School



## Standards and Quality Report

**JUNE 2016**

Brechin High School is a six-year, non-denominational, comprehensive secondary school, with a current roll of around 500 pupils and 50 teaching staff, serving the town of Brechin and the surrounding rural district. The catchment area is large. The cluster primaries are: Andover, Edzell, Lethnot, Maisondieu, Stracathro and Tarfside. In addition to these primary schools, some pupils who attend St Margaret's, Friockheim, Tannadice and Aberlemno primary schools may also live within the catchment area for Brechin High School.

The origins of the School can be traced back more than 500 years to 1429-30, with the formation of a Sang Schuil (Choir School) in Brechin Cathedral. The close links with Cathedral and city are an important and continuing feature of the school's heritage.

On 17 February 2016 the school moved into the new Brechin Community Campus. The campus was developed as part of the Scotland's Future Schools initiative and is part funded by Angus Council and the Scottish Government. Brechin Community Campus has been designed to provide an environment which encourages multifunctional learning and community engagement. Therefore, Brechin Community Campus is not simply a replacement for Brechin High School it is a community resource integrating education (for young and old), community groups and leisure facilities.

## SUCCESSSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

### ***What outcomes have we achieved?***

Overall, the quality of our work in this area is Good

#### Key Strengths

- Self-evaluation is becoming integral to how we operate as a school community and is beginning to have a significant impact on school improvements.
- There was significant improvement in attainment in 2015. It is hoped that we can continue to build on this success through continued high expectations and quality support for pupils.
- The values identified for the school: Friendliness, Achievement, Inclusion, Trust & respect, Honesty; are becoming embedded in school life.

#### Areas for Improvement

- Collaborate with cluster primary schools to develop a system for tracking progress of young people from pre-school to S3.

### ***How well do we meet the needs of our school community?***

Overall, the quality of our work in this area is Good

#### Key Strengths

- Although very stressful, it is to the credit of all pupils and staff that the move to the new campus went well with no break in young people's learning.
- We have made significant progress in partnership working with other agencies and local employers leading to improvements for young people in the quality of work experience and engagement with the world of work. An on-site training centre with lessons delivered by staff from local businesses will be completed in March 2017.
- The new campus provides more opportunities to engage with partners across the wider Brechin community.

#### Areas for Improvement

- Continue to explore ways in which local community groups can utilise the facilities in the new campus during the school day.

## WORK AND LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

### ***How good is the education we provide?***

Overall, the quality of our work in this area is Good

#### Key Strengths

- The quality of learning and teaching continues to improve with pupils more engaged in their learning.
- Changes to the S3 Broad General Education which allow pupils to 'do more of what they like and what they are good at' has received positive feedback from all stakeholders.
- Continue to develop curricular links with associated primaries including organising more joint training events for in-service days. The 'maths angels' programme involving parents in developing numeracy within the wider school community is also having a positive impact and has received national recognition.

#### Areas for Improvement

- Continue to improve the consistency and quality of learning and teaching.

### ***How good is our management?***

Overall, the quality of our work in this area is Good

#### Key Strengths

- The Senior Management Team are committed to effective self – evaluation and in using the outcomes to inform plans for improvement. Principal Teachers have quality assurance calendars which run in conjunction with the overall school calendar.
- Promoted staff are developing a more systematic and directed approach to their roles, along with a deeper understanding of the scope of responsibilities and authority. Collaboration among middle managers has improved this year helping them to operate more as a Team.
- Opportunities for developing leadership are offered to all stakeholders, including pupils, parents and staff.

#### Areas for Improvement

- Provide an organised programme of support for middle managers meeting recognised development needs.