

20th January 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As you know Denbigh High School was inspected last term. We were also the first secondary school in Wales to be inspected under the new Estyn framework, which, according to chief inspector, Meilyr Rowlands, aims to be "more preventative" and "more accurate, valid and cost-effective."

The staff, pupils and governors all embraced the new inspection framework which provides more focus on particular areas. I am very pleased with the positive comments made by the inspectors which emphasised the good working practices embedded within the school.

The inspection report found that overall "teaching has a positive impact and pupils make appropriate progress in developing their knowledge, understanding and skills", and that "pupils listen courteously" and "participate actively and are enthusiastic learners."

The findings show that we are generally on the right track with the improvement plans we have already put in place. However, as with any inspection, there are always recommendations and we are fully committed to implementing these.

We recognise that there are still issues to be addressed around attendance rates for pupils eligible for free school meals. Although we have seen performance improvements in key areas such as English and mathematics at the end of year 11 for these pupils, we know how important good attendance is in achieving good results across the curriculum and we will continue to work on this aspect.

As part of our continual improvement plan we will be looking to develop our home school communications. We are keen to ensure you are adequately informed about your child's progress and school life in general, and we actively encourage your feedback and involvement.

I was pleased that the inspection noted the positive contribution the school's personal and social education programme, physical education lessons and extra-curricular sporting opportunities make in terms of developing pupils' healthy lifestyle choices. Other activities including drama productions, technology challenges and participation in local history events, were also acknowledged as enhancing our pupils' social, creative and cultural development.

Last Autumn I undertook a restructuring of the senior leadership team to provide a fresh focus for the new academic year. The inspection report confirmed that this is proving to be a success stating: "Senior leaders' roles and responsibilities are better defined and align more closely to the school's priorities for improvement. These leaders are beginning to promote a consistent vision for school improvement, built around improving the quality of teaching and pupils' preparedness for learning."

I, and our Chair of Governors, Mr Gareth Royles would like to thank the inspection team for their realistic appraisal of the school. We are heartened to see that the positive aspects of the school are clearly praised and the hard work of the staff appreciated. Our pupils were also rightly applauded for their endeavours. The governors have expressed their full confidence in the school and its leaders to continue our onwards and upwards journey.

Our school motto is 'succeeding together - progressing with pride' and together, parents, carers, staff and pupils, we will continue striving to give our pupils the very best education and to maintaining the caring and stimulating environment which makes our children feel safe, happy to be here, and keen to learn.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss a matter concerning your child, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Molloy'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr S Molloy
Headteacher