

26 January 2016

Dear Parent/carer

**Bridge of Don Academy  
Aberdeen City Council**

We are trying out some new approaches to inspection. You can find more information about why we are doing this, and details of our new approaches, at the link below.<sup>1</sup>

Bridge of Don Academy was inspected in November 2015. A team of inspectors visited the school for two and a half days, following a two-day notification period. During our visit, we talked to parents and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We looked at teaching, learning and assessment, and at how the school is working to raise the attainment of all young people.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work:

- The very positive ethos and mutually respectful relationships between staff and young people which reflect the school values as described in the "BoDA Bs".
- Young people's achievements in leadership and wide-ranging sports, cultural and enterprise activities which are very well supported by staff across the school.
- Staff engagement in professional learning which is leading to improvements in teaching and learning across the school.
- Partnerships with the wider community which enhance the curriculum and increase young people's skills for learning, life and work.

The following areas for improvement were also identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Aberdeen City Council:

- Ensure recent developments in assessment, tracking and monitoring young people's progress lead to improvements in their attainment from S1 to S6.
- Further develop the sharing of good practice across the school and with partners, to ensure consistently high-quality teaching and learning.
- Increase the pace of school improvement through rigorous self-evaluation and stronger strategic leadership at all levels.

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<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/about/principles/futureapproaches/index.asp>

- Improve pupil toilet facilities and arrangements for young people to access toilets during the school day.

### **What happens next?**

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve. However, we intend to return within the next year to provide support for raising attainment and ensuring the best possible progress for all young people. Aberdeen City Council will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Patricia Watson  
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: [complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk) or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.