

9 June 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

**Tain Royal Academy
The Highland Council**

In November 2013, Education Scotland published a report on your child's school. In April 2015, as part of the council's on-going support, officers from The Highland Council Quality Improvement Team carried out a review of the school.

Education Scotland's Area Lead Officer was part of the team. The review team found that the school was continuing to improve and identified several areas for action. The detailed findings of the review are available in printed format from the school and from the school website at

<http://www.tainroyalacademy.org.uk/index.asp?pageid=616296>.

Summary review findings

Overall, the school is improving. In most lessons, pupils are motivated. Learning activities are interesting and relevant, particularly in the Gaelic provision. Staff are developing the curriculum from S1 to S3 to improve the continuity of young people's learning. In the senior phase, teachers track and monitor young people's progress more effectively with the aim of ensuring they attain as highly as possible. In most lessons, tasks and activities are appropriately challenging. However, higher-achieving pupils continue to find their work too easy, and as a result, they are not attaining as well as could be expected.

The leadership of the acting headteacher and acting depute headteachers is increasingly effective. There is a clear plan in place for improving the school. Faculty heads and principal teachers should continue to ensure that self-evaluation activities lead consistently to improvements in learning and teaching. The Highland Council needs to appoint an effective permanent leadership team as quickly as possible.

What happens next?

The improvement plan has not yet led to sufficient improvement in learning and teaching and attainment across the school. Staff require more time and further support from The Highland Council to continue to make the necessary improvements. Our Area Lead Officer will work with The Highland Council to build capacity for improvement, and will maintain contact to monitor progress. Education Scotland will return to carry out a further inspection within 18 months of

the publication of this letter. We will then issue another letter to parents on the extent to which the school has improved.

David Gregory
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 0141 282 5000, or e-mail: complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.