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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**



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Lurgan College
Co Armagh**

November 2012

A FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF LURGAN COLLEGE, CO ARMAGH, BT66 6JW (541-0057)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a standard inspection of Lurgan College in January 2011, when the quality of provision was evaluated as satisfactory, including the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and the provision in design and technology. The inspection highlighted a range of strengths including the ethos, the quality of the teaching, the quality of the provision for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), English and mathematics and the commitment to continuous improvement.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to address the variation in examination results through ensuring appropriate progression and greater challenge in the pupils' learning; and
- to enhance the strategic role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in the more effective leadership and management of the curriculum and pastoral provision.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in June 2012 and a follow-up inspection in November 2012. The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings in January 2011 was of a very good quality and the school's development plan has been adjusted appropriately in light of the inspection findings.

The following changes, which affect the work of the school, have taken place since the inspection:

- new heads of department have been appointed in home economics and modern languages, a middle leadership team and a learning guidance team have been established and the accommodation for music and art has been refurbished;
- timetabled classes for personal development have been introduced for all year groups and the roles of the pastoral staff have been reviewed with a sharper focus on meeting the needs of all pupils;
- with external support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Southern Education and Library Board, a wide range of staff development activities have focused on learning and teaching and have facilitated the dissemination of good practice within the school; and
- the roles and responsibilities within the SLT have been re-organised, and the head of CEIAG and a newly-appointed data manager included in the team.

The following are the most important improvements since the standard inspection:

- the reduction in the variation of the pupils' attainment in General Certificate of Secondary Education at grades A*-B across the subjects with most of the subjects now above or within 5% of the average for selective schools;
- the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care, which is now very good;
- the quality of the provision in design and technology, which is now good;

- two-thirds of the lessons observed during the follow-up inspection were very good or outstanding, in all the classes seen the pupils responded well to a high degree of challenge to their learning and their oral skills developed effectively as a result;
- the leadership given by the SLT to continued improvement in the curriculum and in the pastoral provision through a more rigorous and systematic approach to planning and self-evaluation is very good.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the pupils; and has demonstrated its capacity for self-improvement.

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