

Teacher/Pupil relationships “exceptional” at the Maelor School

A team of Estyn Inspectors recently spent time at the Maelor School observing pupils/students and staff at work. They highlighted many outstanding features in their report including an acknowledgement that “Teachers have exceptional working relationships with their pupils. They make explicit their high expectations of pupils who are highly motivated as a result. This creates a purposeful and productive learning environment.”

The Headteacher of the Maelor School, Mr Eiddwyn Hall, expressed his delight with the excellent inspection report and commented:-

“The inspection team identified many outstanding features in their report including the contribution that the pupils’ behaviour and positive attitude to learning make to the very high standards achieved. This positive inspection report is a tribute to the hard work put in by the pupils and students and to the dedication of the staff at the school.”

The Inspection team awarded the school a Grade 1 for teaching, training and assessment because of the many outstanding features observed in its teaching. The Inspectors also praised pupils and students for the courtesy they show to one another and to adults, commenting that it is “a major strength of the school”. They also highlighted that the “consistency of their good behaviour is outstanding”.

The inspection findings confirm that the teaching in the Maelor School has many outstanding features. This recognises the hard work put in during the past six years in improving the range of teaching and learning methods which have resulted in the introduction of some innovative teaching approaches. Along with the challenge to learners and the quality of lesson planning, this has had a great impact on the learning of pupils and students including those with additional learning needs.

The school is pleased that the Inspectors recognised that the quality of support and guidance provided by staff is an outstanding feature of the school and that all involved promote an environment in which all learners can thrive. The school has worked hard on inclusion so that all pupils and students, irrespective of their background and ability, have the opportunity to achieve their potential and to make a useful contribution to all aspects of school life and beyond.

The Inspectors also acknowledged that the arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the school’s performance are outstanding and that there is a comprehensive self-evaluation system which leads to a thorough and detailed self-evaluation report. The school’s self-evaluation process is an important tool which enables it to recognise what they do well and what needs to be done to improve the school further.

They commend the school for providing outstanding value for money. Prudent use of resources has enabled the school to match resources to its priorities including a significant investment in a range of ICT equipment. This is having a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning for all pupils and students.

The good relationship that the school has developed with its partners, which includes parents, partner schools and its wider community has also been recognised. This enables the school to provide its pupils and students with a good variety of enriching experiences.

The recommendations made by the Inspectors are identified in the current School Development Plan and the school will continue to work to address the issues related to them in order to build on their achievements. These will appear in the school's action plan in response to the inspection.