

This letter is also available in Welsh.

Ysgol Caer Elen  
Withybush Road  
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Pembrokeshire  
SA62 4BN

05/02/2025

Dear Dafydd Hughes

**Interim Visit:** January 2025

Thank you for your support in facilitating the interim visit to the school. We enjoyed the opportunity to meet you, your staff and pupils and to hear more about the improvement work the school has carried out since the core inspection.

During the visit, we were given an opportunity to:

- Talk to senior leaders and middle managers about developments and improvement work.
- Talk to pupils and seek their feedback about the school.
- Visit a variety of lessons for secondary age pupils and conduct learning walks through the primary age pupils' classes.
- Scrutinise books and observe lessons jointly with senior leaders.
- Consider evidence from documentation and reports submitted by the school.

We looked specifically at the work the school is doing in response to the inspection's recommendations to strengthen PSE provision and expand the range of subjects in key stage 4.

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Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

## **Focus of visit**

### **Expand the range of courses in key stage 4**

Since the core inspection, the school has:

- Considered the needs of the local labour market, in addition to pupils' interests.
- Succeeded in offering more vocational subject choices in key stage 4 with a combination of provision at the school and a local further education college. The offer includes catering, engineering and health and care courses.
- Registered with Agored Cymru to be a provider of Welsh-medium vocational courses.

The school may want to consider:

- How can the number and type of vocational courses available to pupils through the medium of Welsh be increased further?

### **Strengthen provision for personal and social education in key stage 4**

Since the core inspection, the school has responded positively to this recommendation. It has:

- Timetabled PSE lessons for all key stage 4 pupils.
- Provided comprehensive PSE plans for these lessons and adapted them according to the requirements at the time and responded to pupils' opinions.
- Identified appropriate staff and trained them to deliver the scheme.
- Continued with specific days with external providers to support provision. These are evaluated by pupils which then leads to adaptations in subsequent PSE lessons.
- Included careers information and guidance in regular sessions.

### **Self-evaluation and improvement planning processes**

During the visit, there was an opportunity to discuss how the school has built on the strengths in the self-evaluation processes since the core inspection.

- Leaders provide purposeful opportunities for all staff to investigate and gather evidence of pupils' progress across the areas of learning and experience. Teachers scrutinise pupils' work regularly, conduct joint learning walks and seek the views of pupils and parents regularly through questionnaires.

- Leaders use the findings of self-evaluation activities effectively and set purposeful actions that respond promptly to the areas for improvement. They monitor progress against the actions to try to ensure that pupils are able to make sound progress over time.
- Pupils' opinions are given meaningful attention when setting improvement priorities. For example, pupils who are members of the various 'Pupil's Voice' committees influence important elements of provision, including vocational courses that are offered to them and contribute their ideas to the learning tasks they would like to undertake within their termly themes.

We wish you well with your future work.

The school's most recent core inspection report and further information on the process and purpose of interim visits can be found on our website:

<http://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6685500>

Yours sincerely



**Catherine Evans**  
Assistant Director