



## Report summary for parents and carers on Fitzalan High School

**Date of inspection: November 2024**

by Estyn, His Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

# Summary

Fitzalan High School provides its pupils with a highly caring, nurturing and inclusive environment. It is particularly effective in establishing a culture that celebrates its notably diverse community. This helps to foster positive attitudes towards diversity, equity and the understanding of different cultures and backgrounds. As a result, most pupils feel safe, valued and respected.

The school's work is characterised by high expectations, strong leadership, reflective self-evaluation, and close links with its local community. Staff work diligently and collaboratively to secure the best possible outcomes for all pupils. The school is particularly effective in tailoring its provision to meet individual needs, including those of its most vulnerable pupils. This has a notably strong impact on pupils' well-being and achievement.

In many lessons, effective teaching helps pupils to make sound progress in developing their knowledge, understanding and skills, and a minority make particularly strong progress. Pupils benefit from a wide range of opportunities to develop their literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum. In particular, the school works effectively to establish positive attitudes to reading. Although pupils use their digital skills appropriately in some areas of the curriculum, strategies to develop this aspect remain at an early stage.

Pupils benefit from an extensive range of provision to support their personal development. This includes a comprehensive personal and social education programme, extensive extra-curricular activities and a wide range of opportunities to take on leadership roles. The school is especially effective at raising the aspirations of pupils from all backgrounds to help them fulfil their potential.

The school is successful in addressing national priorities, for example by reducing the impact of poverty on attainment and promoting the development of pupils' Welsh language skills. Leaders have established a strong culture of safeguarding, where staff are clear about their role in keeping pupils safe.

# Recommendations and next steps

We have made one recommendation to help the school continue to improve:

**R1 Strengthen provision for the development of pupils' digital skills across the curriculum**

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Estyn will invite the school to prepare a case study on its work in relation to senior leaders securing accountability and professional learning to develop middle leadership and provision to develop pupils' understanding of histories, stories and contributions of black, Asian and minority ethnic people, for dissemination on Estyn's website.

**If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#).**

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