

This letter is also available in Welsh

Ysgol Y Castell  
Hylas Lane  
Rhuddlan  
Denbighshire  
LL18 5AG

18/11/2025

Dear leaders and staff

**Interim visit:** November 2025

A team of inspectors visited Ysgol y Castell recently to consider progress in relation to two recommendations from the previous core inspection. The inspection team took the opportunity to observe teaching and learning, talk with pupils and staff, consider documentation, and look at samples of pupils' work. Below is a summary of the findings from the visit.

**Focus of visit**

**Focus self-evaluation and improvement work more sharply on what pupils know, understand and can do**

- Leaders have established suitable arrangements for evaluating the work of the school, with a clear focus on the impact of teaching on pupils' learning.
- Across the school, leaders undertake a few beneficial self-evaluation activities. As a result, they have a suitable understanding of the school's strengths and areas for improvement and share this information appropriately with staff.
- Beneficial professional learning activities have developed staff's ability and confidence to evaluate the impact of provision on pupils' outcomes. This has enabled leaders to include middle leaders in monitoring activities and increase the internal capacity to evaluate the work of the school.
- Leaders ensure that all teachers engage in purposeful monitoring and evaluation activities such as discussing pupils' work during staff meetings. This is successfully developing a culture of collaboration and a consistent approach.

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- Governors have regular opportunities to monitor the provision and gather first hand evidence to evaluate the school's work appropriately. They share this information purposefully with other members of the governing body.

**Improve pupils' confidence and ability to speak in Welsh, both in lessons and around the school**

- Leaders have a suitable vision for developing pupils' Welsh speaking skills. They have shared this vision effectively and this promotes a consistent approach across the school.
- Beneficial professional learning opportunities support staff to improve their Welsh speaking skills successfully. This develops their knowledge and ability to use Welsh to promote pupils' progress purposefully.
- Staff are suitable language models and use an appropriate range of teaching strategies to support pupils well. They ensure thoughtful opportunities for pupils to use Welsh in formal and less formal situations.
- From an early age, pupils respond well to basic classroom instructions. Over time, regular practice sessions and purposeful use of resources, including digital resources, support most pupils to develop their skills consistently. As they reach the top of the school, pupils use everyday language patterns and vocabulary confidently.
- Most pupils' attitudes towards learning Welsh are good.
- Staff make suitable use of a range of worthwhile opportunities, such as performing in the school Eisteddfod, to enrich pupils' knowledge of Welsh culture and enhance their confidence.
- Pupils are enthusiastic and committed to their leadership roles that contribute positively to promoting the Welsh language at the school. This fosters a sense of pride in the language and extends its use within class and at breaktimes purposefully.

The school's latest 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/6632037>

Yours sincerely



**Liz Miles**

Assistant Director