

**RE-INSPECTION
OF
NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
NEWTOWN
POWYS
MAY 2004**

Newtown High School was inspected in February 2003, and judged as having serious weaknesses, as set out in Section 5 of the Welsh Assembly Government's Circular 28/03: *Schools requiring special measures or found to have serious weaknesses following inspection under Section 10 of the School Inspection Act 1996* (December 2002).

As part of the Welsh Assembly Government's requirements for schools with serious weaknesses, Estyn undertook a follow-up inspection, which focused on the key issues identified in the inspection in February 2003.

Outcome of the re-inspection

Newtown High School was judged to have made sufficient progress to be removed from the list of schools with serious weaknesses. This report is a written summary of the re-inspection findings.

Progress since the last inspection

In particular, the school is making good progress in:

- raising standards and, in particular, reducing the proportion of unsatisfactory work in KS3, by ensuring that pupils participate well in class and make appropriate progress in knowledge, understanding and skills;
- developing key skills by identifying increased opportunities for pupils to use ICT and by encouraging them to provide extended observations and responses to questions;
- improving the quality of teaching, as a result of addressing the lack of specialist teachers in certain subjects and placing greater focus on learning objectives;
- ensuring more effective strategic direction through a more cohesive leadership team;
- establishing, amongst the staff, a more rigorous approach to self-evaluation, the monitoring of standards and the analysis of data;
- addressing behavioural problems by clearly stating and implementing policies and procedures to ensure that all pupils understand expectations in this connection; and
- providing religious education and collective worship for all pupils in accordance with statutory requirements.

Recommendations

In order to maintain and improve on this progress, the school should:

- set challenging targets for improved attendance;
- share and disseminate the most effective teaching strategies used in the school;
- ensure all teachers apply the school's homework policies;
- make the best use of ICT resources; and
- ensure all school and departmental actions plans identify, more clearly, measurable success criteria.