

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council
20th April 2016

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Arwel Jones, Portfolio Holder for Education

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

As you aware Estyn monitors progress in all schools and this ranges from special measures for schools in difficulty, to a light touch regime for the best schools with the majority being in a middle group that are inspected on specific issues. On the 16 March Estyn announced that Gwernyfed High School would no longer be in that middle group but because of the progress made and instead will join High Schools such as Welshpool, Maesydderwen and Crickhowell that do not need any additional monitoring (not special monitoring as had been reported). Can I invite the Cabinet to offer its congratulations to Gwernyfed High School on this achievement?

In response to Councillor Ratcliffe's question, I can confirm that Estyn carries out an inspection in schools with all schools inspected at least once in a seven year cycle. The level of monitoring depends on the outcome of the inspection. There are five outcomes which are:

- No monitoring
- Monitoring by the Local Authority
- Estyn monitoring which involves a visit by a team of HMI approximately 12-18 months after the original inspection. The purpose is to make a judgement of progress against the core inspection recommendations.
- Significant Improvement with a similar monitoring procedure to schools judged to require Estyn monitoring.
- Special Measures which involves a visit of HMI on a termly basis.

In its core inspection of 2013 Gwernyfed was judged to require Estyn monitoring. The monitoring visit took place early in the Spring Term with the outcome being that Gwernyfed had made sufficient progress to require no further monitoring in relation to the 2013 inspection outcome. This is a pleasing outcome for both the school and the Council and is the result of a great deal of work by the school with support and challenge by the School service and ERW.

The Cabinet congratulates the school on this outcome.