

Dear Parents and Carers,

An external validation visit was undertaken at Peel Clothworkers School on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 as part of a programme of external validation of schools commissioned by The Isle of Man Department of Education, Sport and Culture (DESC). The aim of the external validation visit was to promote continuous improvement and to deliver consistency, share best practice and deliver positive outcomes for children and young people. The visit was undertaken by two external, independent external validators from Tribal Education.

External Validators looked at a wide range of evidence presented by school leaders, including the school self-evaluation, and sampled the work of the school during the visit. These activities were focussed on key areas based on the self-evaluation of the school and included visits to a cross-section of lessons, meetings with staff and pupils, gathering the views of parents where appropriate and scrutiny of documentation.

During the visit, external validators considered key areas of focus which were explored in collaboration with school leaders to validate school leaders' own evaluations.

The focus for this external validation visit was 'The Quality of Education'.

A caring, nurturing culture and a deep understanding of the rounded personal and academic development of every learner are at the heart of everything that Peel Clothworkers school sets out to achieve.

Each young person is known and valued as an individual and their successes as such are recognised and celebrated both in terms of academic progress and personal growth. As a result, pupils are proud to be part of their school community. They are confident and articulate ambassadors for it and consistently show care, consideration and empathy in their relationships with both staff and their peers.

Pupils are provided with numerous opportunities to flourish, whether for example as 'buddies' to younger pupils, sports leaders, 'eco warriors' or members of an active pupil council. As one pupil so eloquently put it, 'here we have fun, and we learn at the same time.'

Pupils greatly value the new 'Thinking Moves' initiative. This has already had a positive impact by creating a common 'language of learning' across the school, so that pupils know and are able to explain how new skills and knowledge they gain in one subject can be applied to also support their progress in others.

Leaders and staff are proactive in continually reviewing their teaching, learning and assessment approaches and have already identified how assessment and analysis of a range of data can further enhance the learning for all pupils. The school are focussed on developing this area further to ensure that engagement of your children in their learning is central to effective progress.

Parents who were spoken to as part of the external validation process were appreciative of how the school's communication with them, and its accessible, 'open door' approach, enables them to support their children's learning. The school are continuing to review their engagement with all parents and carers to focus on enriching the learning journey of your children through partnership.

Leaders of the school constantly look to reflect on the school's offer, welcome challenge and are clearly focused on the next stage of its development for the continued benefit of your children.

The areas of growth identified above, as part of the external validation visit, are being reviewed and actioned by the school as part of a continuous cycle of self-evaluation.

Kind regards

*Nicola Morris*

Lead Validator

External Validation Team