

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 16 January 2014

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Education/
Head of Education

Report Author: School Effectiveness Performance Officer -
Secondary

Title: KS4 Examination Results

1. What is the report about?

The verified performance of Denbighshire schools external examinations results at Key Stage 4 and post 16. The report also provides analysis of results against benchmarked information and performance against other local authorities.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information regarding the performance of Denbighshire schools teacher assessments and external examinations.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That members review and comment on the performance of schools against previous performance and the external benchmarks that are currently available, and identify any potential areas for improvement.

4. Key Stage 4 and Post 16 Results

Although most key indicators at KS 4 for external qualifications have improved this year, the Level 2 threshold including English/Welsh and maths has declined slightly which has also impacted on the Core Subject Indicator (CSI).

Assessments and Examinations Rankings 2011 - 2013

	Denbighshire 2011		Denbighshire 2012		Denbighshire 2013		Wales 2013
	%	Ranking	%	Ranking	%	Ranking	
Level 1	90.9	12	93.2	7	93.6	11	93.2
Level 2	71.4	5	82.7	1	85.7	2	77.8
Level 2 inc. E/W & M	52.5	8	54.7	7	53.4	12	52.7
CSI	51.3	8	53.1	7	49.2	14	49.2
Wider Points	449.8	4	504.9	5	553.2	4	501.2
Capped Wider Points	317.6	9	339.2	3	345.3	7	333.1

Level 2 including English/Welsh & Mathematic

One of the key performance indicators at the end of key stage 4 is the Level 2 Threshold including English/Welsh and mathematics which is the number of pupils gaining 5 GCSE A*-C's or vocational equivalents and GCSE English/Welsh and mathematics A*-C's grades. (Appendix1)

The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 inc. English/Welsh & Maths is 53.4% in 2013, which is 1.3% lower than 2012. This is 1.3% (52.7%) above the Welsh average and places the LA 11th in Wales in 2013 from 7th in 2012. However, although this is a drop this year, it is in line with the LA's free school meal position. The All Wales Core Data Set value added data which compares LA's contextually places the LA 7th in Wales in 2013.

The Level 2 inc. English/Welsh & Maths increased in Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School, Denbigh High School and Rhyl High School, the other schools declined. Blessed Edward Jones and Rhyl High Schools showed the greatest improvement and remain in the 1st quartile, Prestatyn High School had the greatest decline.

	2011	2012	2013	Difference 2012-2011	
	Level 2 incl. Eng/Welsh & Maths				Benchmarked Quartiles
St Brigids	75%	72%	71%	-1	3
Denbigh High School	40%	50.0%	51%	+1	3
Ysgol Dinas Bran	60%	57%	56%	-1	3
Prestatyn High School	50%	53%	46%	-7	4
Bl. Edward Jones	37%	39%	44%	+5	1
Rhyl High School	36%	45%	51%	+6	1
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	68%	71%	68%	-3	2
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	67%	68%	66%	-2	2

The total percentage gaining the Level 1 Threshold of GCSE 5A*-G or vocational equivalents in Denbighshire this year is 94.0% in 2013 which is 1% above 2012.

Three pupils (0.2%) left school without a recognised qualification in 2013, this places the LA 12th in Wales giving (Wales 0.3%). This is an improvement from 10 pupils, 0.8% and 19th position in 2012 (Wales 0.4%).

The Level 2 Threshold (5 GCSE 5A*-C or vocational equivalents)

The Level 2 Threshold is the number of pupils gaining 5 GCSE A*-C's or vocational equivalents. This replaces the 5A*-C indicator used in previous years. The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold is 86%, which is 3% higher than last year. This is the fourth year that the Level 2 indicator has increased in Denbighshire high schools. This places Denbighshire LA 2nd in Wales in 2013 one place lower than 2012, the All Wales Core Data Set value added the LA 6th in Wales.

All schools except for St.Brigid's improved in 2013, Prestatyn High (93%), Ysgol Dinas Bran (99%), Ysgol Glan Clwyd (97%) and Rhyl High School (91%) Ysgol Brynhyfryd (92%) all achieved over 90% for the Level 2 Threshold. Rhyl High School achieved the greatest increase improving by 15%. (Appendix1)

	2011	2012	2013	Difference 2012-2013	Quartiles
Level 2					
St Brigid's	94.7%	97%	89%	-7%	2
Denbigh High School	53.8%	60%	71%	+11%	4
Ysgol Dinas Bran	86.8%	98%	99%	+1%	1
Prestatyn High School	80.0%	92%	93%	+1%	1
Blessed Edward Jones	45.8%	68%	69%	+1%	3
Rhyl High School	52.0%	76%	91%	+15%	1
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	82.2%	86%	92%	+6%	1
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	78.7%	92%	97%	+5%	1
Denbighshire	71%	81%	86%	+3%	
WALES	67.0%	71%	78%	+7%	

Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn provisional Level 2 results

Pupils from Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn sit examinations when they are ready, which means few pupils gain a GCSE qualification at the age of 15 missing Welsh Government performance indicator. This year 5 pupils gained the Level 1 Threshold and 55% of pupils successfully achieved a recognised qualification. 74% of pupils at Ysgol Tir Morfa have successfully gained a recognised qualification below GCSE and Level 1.

Secondary Banding 2012

Banding is used by the Welsh Government as a way of using national data on school performance in context to group schools according to where they are on their improvement journey relative to other schools in Wales. Band 1 schools show good overall performance and progress and those in band 5 show weak performance and progress relative to other schools.

	2010	2011	2012	2013
St Brigids	2	2	2	2
Denbigh High School	5	4	3	3
Ysgol Dinas Bran	3	1	1	2
Prestatyn High School	3	2	2	3
Blessed Edward Jones	4	3	2	3
Rhyl High School	5	4	2	1
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	4	2	2	3
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	3	3	2	2

There are no Denbighshire schools in lower bands 4 and 5 in 2013. Rhyl High School has improved from Band 5 in 2010 to Band 1 in 2013. The local authority average banding score places Denbighshire 5th in Wales in 2013 down from 2nd in 2012.

Level 3 threshold results (A Level and vocational equivalent)

The performance indicator for post 16 is the Level 3 Threshold which equates to 2 A levels or vocational equivalents. The Level 3 Threshold has remained static at 96.8% in for the last three years. This is above the Welsh average of 96.5% and places Denbighshire 9th in Wales. A Level results have improved this year in Denbighshire's secondary schools. More students achieved A*-C grades improving to 77.7% this year, this is 1.0% higher than 2012. Appendix 2.

There has been an improvement in pupils achieving the top A and A* grades, up to 22.1% which is nearly 2% higher than the 2012, however this is below the Wales average of 22.9%. The number of pupils gaining the Welsh Baccalaureate declined slightly from 172 in 2012 to 170 in 2013. The reduction in the number of pupils sitting the Welsh Baccalaureate has contributed to the small improvement of the average wider point score from in 2012 to 693 18th in Wales and 717 in 2013 20th in Wales.

The number of students in Denbighshire entered for post 16 qualifications in 2013 increased to 463 compared to 439 in 2012. The improvement in results at KS4 and post 16 partnership working has contributed to this increase. In 2013 66.6% of students progressed to higher education compared with 60.5% in 2012.

Students in the Rhyl 6th achieved 94% for the Level 3 Threshold compared with 97% of pupils from Denbighshire high schools. The Rhyl 6th results do not contribute to the LA's indicators.

5 How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

This report contributes to the Corporate Priority of improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings. Members need to be aware of the performance of schools and the LA against national benchmarks.

6 What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

N/A

7 What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is not required as it is not suggesting a change in policy. Although boys and girls perform above the Welsh average for the Level 2 inc. E/W&M, boys comparatively perform better than girls. Boys perform 1.16% above the Welsh averages were as girls are only 0.66% above the Welsh average.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

N/A

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

N/A

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- The LA and GwE will continue to challenge Headteachers and managers in schools to ensure that schools are taking appropriate action to improve standards.
- To reduce any risks to school support and challenge in Denbighshire schools, Education Officers within the Authority monitor and assess the quality of the regional education service (GwE)
- Sustaining the improvement in external examination results.
- Continue improvement against the reduction in 14-19 Learning Pathways Grant and ESF Potential funding after 2014.

11. Power to make the Decision

Articles 6.1 and 6.3.4(b) of the Council's Constitution

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