

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 15 January 2015

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

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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.

The report incorporates GwE's Annual report and information on the 5 year trend in relation to educational attainment in Denbighshire. (Appendix 1))

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

All key indicators at KS 4 for external qualifications have improved this year.

	Denbighshire 2012		Denbighshire 2013		Denbighshire 2014		Wales '14
	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	
Level 1	93.2	7	93.6	11	95.2	11	93.9
Level 2	82.7	1	85.7	2	88.8	2	82.3
Level 2 inc. E/W&M	54.7	7	53.4	12	55.6	10	55.4
Core Subject Indicator (CSI)	53.1	7	49.2	14	53.9	10	52.6
Wider Points Score	504.9	5	553.2	4	562.8	5	524.5
Capped Points Score	339.2	3	345.3	7	351.8	4	340.8

4.1 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.

The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 inc. English/Welsh & Maths is 55.6% in 2014, which is 2.2% higher than 2013. This is 0.2% (55.4%) above the Welsh average and places the LA 10th in Wales in 2014 from 12th in 2013. This is two places above 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 St Brigid's, Denbigh High School, Ysgol Dinas Bran, Prestatyn High School, Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Glan Clwyd. Two schools declined in 2014. St Brigid's and Rhyl High School were in the 1st quartile based on Free School Meal benchmarking, while Prestatyn High School are in the 4th.

Level 2 inc. Eng/Welsh & Maths					
	2012	2013	2014	Difference 2014-2103	Benchmarked Quartiles
St Brigid's	72	71	78	+7	1
Denbigh High School	50	51	58	+6	2
Ysgol Dinas Bran	57	56	60	+4	3
Prestatyn High School	53	46	51	+5	4
Blessed Edward Jones	39	44	39	-5	2
Rhyl High School	45	51	45	-6	1
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	71	68	69	+1	3
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	68	66	70	+4	3

The total percentage of pupils gaining the Level 1 Threshold of GCSE 5A*-G or vocational equivalents in Denbighshire this year is 95.2% in 2014 which is 1.6% above 2013.

4.2 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. The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold is 88.8%, which is 3.3% higher than last year. This is the fifth year that the Level 2 indicator has increased in Denbighshire high schools. This places Denbighshire LA 2nd in Wales in 2014 which is equal to 2013. The All Wales Core Data VA Set places the LA 5th in Wales in 2014, up from 6th in 2013.

All schools except for St.Brigid's improved in 2014, Prestatyn High (97%), Ysgol Dinas Bran (99%), Ysgol Glan Clwyd (97%) and Rhyl High School (95%) Ysgol Brynhyfryd (92%) all achieved over 90% for the Level 2

Threshold. Denbigh High School achieved the greatest increase improving by 13%.

	Level 2 Threshold				Benchmarked Quartiles
	2012	2013	2014	Difference 2014-2013	
St Brigid's	97	89	88	-1	3
Denbigh High School	65	71	84	+13	3
Ysgol Dinas Bran	98	99	99	0	1
Prestatyn High School	91	93	97	+4	1
Blessed Edward Jones	68	69	72	+3	3
Rhyl High School	77	91	95	+4	1
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	88	92	92	0	2
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	91	97	97	0	1

Pupils from Ysgol Plas Brondryffyn 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 from a cohort of 16 pupils, 5 pupils gained the Level 1 Threshold and 100% of pupils successfully achieved a recognised qualification/accreditation. 100% of year 11 pupils at Ysgol Tir Morfa have successfully gained a recognised qualification /accreditation below GCSE and Level 1.

There is a significant improvement in examination performance of Looked After Children (LAC) pupils compared to 2013. All LAC pupils except for one gained at least a Level 1 qualification and one pupil gained 10 GCSE A*-C grades including an A*. All pupils except for one gained at least a Level 1 GCSE grade in English or Welsh and maths. The majority of LAC pupils also gained a range of vocational qualifications at Level 2.

4.3 Secondary Categorisation 2014

Categorisation 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. National Categorisation replaces School Banding. Category 1 schools show good overall performance and progress and those in Category 4 show weak performance and progress relative to other schools.

	Banding				Categorisation
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
St Brigid's	2	2	2	2	1
Denbigh High School	5	4	3	3	2
Ysgol Dinas Bran	3	1	1	2	2
Prestatyn High School	3	2	2	3	3
Blessed Edward Jones	4	3	2	3	3
Rhyl High School	5	4	2	1	2
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	4	2	2	3	2
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	3	3	2	2	1

There are no Denbighshire schools in the lowest category 4 in 2014. The local authority average Category score places Denbighshire provisionally 4th in Wales in 2014 up from 5th in 2013.

4.4 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 increased to 98.1% in 2014, a 1.3% improvement on 2013. This is above the Welsh average of 97.1% and places Denbighshire 9th in Wales. 'A Level' results have declined slightly this year in secondary schools. Students achieving two A Levels with A*-C grades declining to 75.4% this year, this is 1.2% lower than 2013.

In addition to the A Level results, 99.4% students were awarded the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification's Advanced Diploma in 2014; this is a 5% improvement on 2013. The performance of students in the Rhyl 6th has improved this year with 91% students gaining the Level 3 Threshold and 95% achieved the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification's Advanced Diploma. The Rhyl 6th results are not included in the local authority averages. Although the average wider point score declined to 691 in 2014 from 718 in 2013, in 2014 Denbighshire's position has remained 20th in Wales.

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?

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

Scrutiny's powers with respect to reviewing performance and policy objectives is outlined in Article 6.3.4(b) of the Council's Constitution.

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