

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 24th September 2015

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

Report Author: Lead Education Officer – Secondary & Post 16

Title: The performance A*- A students at GCSE and A Level

1. What is the report about?

The performance of students at GCSE and A Level gaining A* and A grades compared to 2014. National averages, unverified and some benchmarked information is available in December for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To provide information to members regarding the performance of Denbighshire A* - A grades in external examinations at Key Stage 4 and post 16.

3. What are the recommendations?

That members review the performance of the schools against previous performance and external benchmarks and make recommendations.

4. GCSE

A* - A Grades (Provisional)

	A*		A* - A		Diff
	2014	2015	2014	2015	
Rhyl High School	1.4%	0.0%	6.3%	1.9%	-4.4%
Prestatyn High School	2.9%	7.4%	14.7%	19.5%	4.8%
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	3.6%	8.4%	11.4%	22.7%	11.3%
Denbigh High School	4.5%	3.3%	16.2%	11.2%	-5.0%
Ysgol Dinas Bran	6.0%	6.4%	20.9%	18.00%	-2.9%
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	10.2%	9.9%	28.8%	30.5%	1.7%
Blessed Edward Jones CHS	1.7%	0.0%	10.7%	2.8%	-7.9%
St Brigid's School	11.3%	27.7%	34.9%	50.8%	15.9%
Denbighshire	5.8%	5.6%	19.6%	19.1%	-0.5%
Wales	6.2%	6.0%	19.4%	19.2%	

At GCSE level in 2015, 5.6% of students gained an A* compared with 5.8% in 2014. This decline is in line with the national average of 6.0% which also declined by 0.2% this year. The number of students gaining A*-A grades in 2015 is 19.1% which is 0.5% less than 2014. This is 0.1% below the national average of 19.2%; the rate of decline is less than the Welsh average (-0.2%).

The number of A*-A grades increased this year in Prestatyn High School 19.5% (+4.8%), St. Brigid's 50.8% (+15.9), Ysgol Brynhyfryd 30.5% (+1.7%), Ysgol Glan Clwyd 22.7% (+11.3).

The number of students gaining A*-A grades declined this year in Blessed Edward Jones High School 2.8% (-7.9), Denbigh High School 11.2% (-5.0%) Rhyl High School 1.9% (-4.4%) and Ysgol Dinas Bran 18.0% (-2.9%). No pupils from Blessed Edward Jones High School (-1.7%) or Rhyl High School (-1.4%) gained an A* in 2015.

All results at Key Stage 4 are provisional, verified results will be available in November and benchmarked data in December.

5. A Level and vocational equivalent.

	2015 % A*	2015 % A*-A	2014 % A*	2014 % A*-A
	%	%	%	%
Prestatyn High School	2.6	11.3	1.5	11.2
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	8.2	25.6	0.6	5.8
Denbigh High School	5.3	7.4	4.9	14.1
Ysgol Dinas Bran	8.5	24	9.5	27.6
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	6.3	20.9	3.2	25.3
St Brigid's School	9.2	27.6	2.7	24.7

LA Total	6.3	19.3	3.1	16.7
WALES	7.3	23.1	23.3	6.0

The percentage of A* have increased this year from 3.1% in 2014 to 6.3% in 2015, however this below the Welsh average of 7.3%. The number of students gaining A*-A grades in 2015 has increased from 16.7% in 2014 to 19.3%. This indicator is below the Welsh average on 23.1% in 2015. The increase in Denbighshire is set against a -0.2% decline in Wales.

The A*-A grades have improved this year in Prestatyn High School 11.3% (+.1), Ysgol Glan Clwyd 25.6% (+19.8%) and St. Brigid's 27.6% (+2.9%). A*-A Results declined in Denbigh High School 7.4% (-7.3%), Ysgol Brynhyfryd 20.9% (-4.4%) and Ysgol Dinas Bran 24.0% (-2.4%).

6. How does the decision contribute to Corporate Priorities?

Improving performance in education to achieve high level performance across the county is one of the corporate priorities. The raising of attainment at all Key Stages, particularly Key Stage 4 is a key objective.

7. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

N/A

8. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

At this time there is no accurate comparative data for gender or free school meals (FSM) students.

9. What consultations have been carried out with scrutiny and others?

N/A

10. Chief Finance Officer Statement

N/A

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

A detailed analysis for the reasons for underachievement is being conducted by the LA and GwE. The school classification process ensures underperforming and high risk schools are regularly monitored and are provided with additional support. Increased capacity within GwE during 2015/16 will ensure that high performing schools will receive more support and challenge during the period.

12. Power to make a 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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