

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 26 January 2016

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

Report Author: Principal Education Manager and GwE Senior Challenge Advisor

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

The main KS4 indicator; the L2+ including English / Welsh and Mathematics increased again in 2015, as did the CSI and Level 1. However, there was a slight decrease in the Level 2 and Wider Capped Points score.

	Exc. EOTAS	2014	Exc. EOTAS	2015	Exc. EOTAS	Inc. EOTAS	2016	Wales '16
	DCC %	Rank	DCC %	Rank	DCC %	DCC %	Rank inc EOTAS	Inc. EOTAS
Level 1	95.2	11	94.9	17	96.4	93.7	20	95.3
Level 2	88.8	2	86	10	85.9	83.6	14	83.6
Level 2 in E/W&M	55.6	10	56.1	14	60.9	58.7	13	60.3
CSI	54	10	51.9	15	58.7	56.5	13	57.6
Capped Points Score	352	5	345.4	4	348.9	340.4	16	340.4

4.1 Level 2 including English / Welsh & Mathematics

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.

For the first time this year, EOTAS (Educated Other Than At School) are included in the comparative data. Figures above show Denbighshire LA performance that includes and disaggregates all EATOS.

The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 inc. English/Welsh & Maths is 60.9% in 2016, which is 4.8% higher than 2014 and 5.3% higher than 2014. When EOTAS information is included this percentage falls to 58.7%. This is 1.6% below the Welsh average and places the LA 13th in Wales in 2016. This is equal to the LA's expected free school meal position.

The Level 2 inc. English/Welsh & Maths increased in all Denbighshire schools except Denbigh High and Prestatyn High. St Brigid's and Rhyl High were both in the 1st quarter when benchmarked against similar schools, while Denbigh High, Prestatyn, Blessed Edward Jones and Ysgol Glan Clwyd were in the 3rd quarter. No school in Denbighshire was placed in the 4th quarter in 2016.

	2014	2015	2016	Diff. 2015-16	Quartiles
St Brigid's	78	70	83	+13%	1 st
Denbigh High School	58	58	55	-3%	3 rd
Ysgol Dinas Bran	60	69	70	+1%	2 nd
Prestatyn High School	51	58	54	-4%	3 rd
Blessed Edward Jones	39	33	41	+8%	3 rd
Rhyl High School	45	39	54	+15%	1 st
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	69	68	79	+11%	2 nd
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	70	66	70	+4%	3 rd

The total percentage of pupils gaining the Level 1 Threshold of GCSE 5A*-G or vocational equivalents in Denbighshire this year is 96.4% in 2016 which is 1.5% above 2015. If EOTAS are included in this figure this falls to 93.7%. This is 1.6% lower than the Welsh average. Only 0.6% of learners left without a qualification, this is 0.3% lower than the Welsh Average and places Denbighshire 5th when compared to other LAs.

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 85.9% which is 0.1% lower than last year. When EOTAS are included this falls to 82.7%. This places Denbighshire LA 14th in Wales in 2016 which is one place below the LAs free school meal position.

Three schools improved in 2015, Glan Clwyd (97.9%), Ysgol Brynhyfryd (98.1%) and St Brigid's (92.6%). Three schools saw their results fall; Blessed Edward Jones Catholic (-18.5%), Denbigh High (-4%) and Prestatyn High (-5.7%). Three schools were in the top benchmarked quartile based on free school meals; Ysgol Dinas Bran, Ysgol Brynhyfryd and Ysgol Glan Clwyd. No schools were in the 4th quartile based on their free school meals.

	2014	2015	2016	Diff. 2015-14	Quartiles
St Brigid's	88	93	93	-	2
Denbigh High School	84	70	66	-4	3
Ysgol Dinas Bran	99	100	97	-3	1
Prestatyn High School	97	95	89	-6	3
Blessed Edward Jones	72	71	51	-20	3
Rhyl High School	95	89	89	-	2
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	92	85	98	+13	1
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	97	98	98	-	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 indicators. This year from a cohort of 8 pupils, 2 pupils gained the Level 1 Threshold and 100% of pupils successfully achieved a recognised qualification/accreditation. 100% of five year 11 pupils at Ysgol Tir Morfa 100% have successfully gained a recognised qualification /accreditation below GCSE and Level 1.

12 out of 13 LAC pupils gained at least a Level 1 qualification. One pupil gained the Level 2 Threshold and 6 pupils the Level 1 threshold. 13 pupils in Ysgol Plas Cefndy (PRU) gained at least 1 Level 2 qualification and one pupil achieved the Level 2+ Threshold

4.3 Secondary Categorisation

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. Category 1 schools very good overall performance and progress and those in Category 4 show weak performance and progress relative to other schools.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
St Brigid's	2	2	1	1	1
Denbigh High School	3	3	2	3	3
Ysgol Dinas Bran	1	2	2	1	1
Prestatyn High School	2	3	3	2	2
Blessed Edward Jones	3	3	3	3	4
Rhyl High School	2	1	2	3	3
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	2	3	2	2	1
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	2	2	1	2	2

There is one Denbighshire schools placed in the 4th National data categorisation category; Blessed Edward Jones. Three schools are in the first National data categorisation category; St Brigid's, Ysgol Dinas Bran and Ysgol Brynhyfryd. Rhyl High school are placed in category 3 as their 3-year free school meal pupil data falls just below the Welsh Government benchmark.

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. A Level' results have declined slightly this year in secondary schools. Students. The percentage of candidates achieving the Level 3 threshold decreased slightly to 97% this year from 97.7% in 2015. This is slightly below the Welsh average of 98% and places Denbighshire 17th in Wales. The Average Wider Points Score for pupils taking A Levels in Denbighshire was 697.8 in 2016. This was points lower than in 2015 and placed Denbighshire LA 20th amongst Welsh LAs.

97.5% of students entered were awarded the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification's Advanced Diploma in 2016; this is a 0.8% decrease on 2015 (98.3%). The performance of students in the Rhyl 6th has improved slightly this year with 97.5% students gaining the Level 3 Threshold which is an increase .2% (97.3%) on 2015. In 2016 91% achieved the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification's Advanced Diploma compared to 100% in 2015. The Rhyl 6th results are not included in the local authority averages.

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 Well-being Impact Assessment? The completed Well-being Impact Assessment report can be downloaded from the [website](#) and should be attached as an appendix to the report

A prosperous Denbighshire
A resilient Denbighshire
A healthier Denbighshire
A more equal Denbighshire
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
A globally responsible Denbighshire

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).

Ensuring improvement in external examination results.

Ensure continued improvement against the reduction in 14-19 Learning Pathways Grant and ESF TRAC funding.

11. Power to make the Decision

Scrutiny's powers with respect to reviewing performance and policy objectives is outlined in Section 7.4.2(b) of the Council's Constitution.

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