

Report to: Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 10 January 2013

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 Results

4.1 All key indicators at KS 4 for external qualifications have improved this year to be top ten performing in Wales. There has been significant improvement in all indicators since 2010, particularly the Level 2 Threshold and Level 2 inc. English/Welsh and Mathematics.

4.2 Assessments and Examinations Rankings 2008 - 2012

	Denbighshire 2010		Denbighshire 2011		Denbighshire 2012	
	%	Wales Ranking	%	Wales Ranking	%	Wales Ranking
Level 1	89.8	13	90.9	12	93.2	7
Level 2	60.7	19	71.4	5	82.7	1
Level 2 incl E/W & M	43.9	18	52.5	8	54.7	7
CSI	43.3	18	51.3	8	53.1	7
Wider Points	402.1	9	449.8	4	504.9	5
Capped Wider Points	299.4	16	317.6	9	339.2	3

4.3 Level 2 including English/Welsh & Mathematic

- 4.4 The key performance indicator 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.
- 4.5 The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 incl. Eng/Welsh & Maths is 54.5% in 2012 which is 2.0% higher than 2011. This is 4.5% (50.49%) above the Welsh average and places the LA 7th in Wales from 8th in 2011.
- 4.6 The Level 2 inc. English/Welsh & Maths increased in all schools except St.Brigid's and Ysgol Dinas Bran, however the schools remain in the 1st and 2nd quartiles respectively. Denbigh and Rhyl High Schools showed the greatest improvement.

	2010	2011	2012	Difference 2012-2011	
	Level 2 incl. Eng/Welsh & Maths				Benchmarked Quartiles
St Brigids	75.0%	75.4%	72%	-3.4%	1
Denbigh High School	24.0%	40.2%	50%	9.8%	3
Ysgol Dinas Bran	46.4%	60.3%	59%	-1.3%	2
Prestatyn High School	46.8%	50.3%	53%	2.7%	2
Bl. Edward Jones	18.0%	37.3%	39%	1.7%	1
Rhyl High School	31.0%	36.3%	45%	8.7%	1
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	58.0%	67.8%	71%	3.2%	2
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	63.5%	66.5%	68%	1.5%	3

Denbighshire	44.0%	52.5%	54.5%	2.0%
WALES	49.0%	50.0%	50.5%	0.5%

- 4.7 The percentage of A* and A grades has increased to 18.9% in 2012 from 16.2% in 2011. The total percentage gaining the Level 1 Threshold of GCSE 5A*-G or vocational equivalents in Denbighshire this year is 93.0% in 2012 which is 3% higher than as 2011.

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

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 Threshold is 83%, which is 10% higher than last year. This is the fourth year that the Level 2 indicator has increased in Denbighshire high schools. This places Denbighshire LA 1st in Wales in 2012 a significant improvement moving from 18th in 2010.
- 5.3 All schools have improved this year with Blessed Edward Jones and Rhyl High School achieving the highest increases, 22% and 25% respectively for the Level 2 Threshold. In addition Prestatyn High (91.%), Ysgol Dinas Bran (98.%),

Ysgol Glan Clwyd (91%) and St.Brigid's (96%) all achieved over 90% for the Level 2 Threshold.

	2010	2011	2012	Difference 2012-2011	
Level 2					
St Brigids	92.9%	94.7%	96%	+1.3%	1
Denbigh High School	45.8%	53.8%	65%	+11.2%	4
Ysgol Dinas Bran	67.0%	86.8%	98%	+11.2%	1
Prestatyn High School	65.0%	80.0%	91%	+11.0%	1
Blessed Edward Jones	37.7%	45.8%	68%	+22.6%	1
Rhyl High School	39.0%	52.0%	77%	+25.0%	1
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	82.3%	82.2%	88%	+5.8%	2
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	73.0%	78.7%	91%	+12.3%	2

Denbighshire	61.0%	70.8%	80.8%	+10%	
WALES	64.0%	67.0%	70.8%	+3.8%	1st

5.4 10 pupils (0.8%) left school without a recognised qualification in 2012. This places the local authority 18th in Wales.

5.5 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, pupils have gained D to G grades in mathematics as well as Science Foundation and English Language grades D to G. Pupils at Ysgol Tir Morfa have been successful in gaining qualifications below GCSE and Level 1.

6. Secondary Banding 2012

6.1 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
St Brigid's	2	2	2
Denbigh High School	5	4	3
Ysgol Dinas Bran	3	1	1
Prestatyn High School	3	2	2
Blessed Edward Jones	4	3	2
Rhyl High School	5	4	2
Ysgol Brynhyfryd	4	2	2
Ysgol Glan Clwyd	3	3	2

6.2 The banding profile of schools in Denbighshire in 2012 has improved; all schools are in Band 2 except for Ysgol Dinas Bran who remain in Band 1 and Denbigh High School who have improved from band 4 to Band 3.

7. Level 3 threshold results (A Level and vocational equivalent)

- 7.1 The performance indicator for post 16 is the Level 3 Threshold which equates to 2 A levels or vocational equivalents. Results at Post 16 have largely remained static.
- 7.2 The percentage of candidates achieving the Level 3 Threshold has improved by 3% to 99% in 2012. This is above the Welsh average of 97%.
- 7.3 The Average wider points score has improved to 694 in 2012 however this is below the Welsh average of 773 in 2012.
- 7.4 The percentage of A & A* grades have decreased to 19.4% in 2012 from 22.5% in 2011; the Welsh average is 23.6%.
- 7.5 There was a decrease in the number of candidates awarded the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification's Advanced Diploma percentage of 95.6% is lower than 2011 by 2.5%, but still higher than the Welsh average of 82.8%. However the qualification was taken by significantly more pupils in 2012.
- 7.6 One student from Ysgol Plas Brondyfryn achieved an AS grade D in Mathematics at the school in 2012.

8. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings is one of the Council's corporate priorities. The raising of attainment at all key stages particularly key stage 4 is a key objective.

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

N/A

10. What consultations have been carried out?

N/A

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

- Challenge and support for Headteachers and Management in Schools will be provided on a regional basis from April 2013 by System Leaders.
- To reduce any risks to School Support and Challenge in Denbighshire schools, Education Officers within the Authority will need to monitor and assess the quality of the Regional support when these new systems and structures are in place April 2013.
- Sustaining the improvement in external examination results.
- Uncertainty of continued 14-19 Learning Pathways Grant and ESF Potensial funding after 2014.

12. Power to make the Decision

Article 6.3.4(b) of the Council's Constitution permits scrutiny committees to review and scrutinise performance.

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