

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 08 NOVEMBER 2005
EXAMINATION RESULTS 2005

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Members of the overall performance in the 2005 diet of examinations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each year the Scottish Executive publish the results obtained in the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) examinations to schools and education authorities. It is no longer the practice, nationally, to publish figures on performance on a school-by-school basis in the format that became known as 'League Tables'. There is, however, still a requirement for authorities to make available to parents the results for individual schools. This is done principally through school handbooks and the compilation of information for parents of P7 pupils moving to secondary school.

3. INTERPRETING THE RESULTS

- 3.1 A summary table of results has been provided by the Quality Improvement Team, based on information supplied by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.
- 3.2 The figures at paragraph 4.1 are presented as a percentage of the relevant S4 roll. This is to enable some level of comparison to be made. Use of the S4 roll means that the effects of differing staying on rates to S5 and S6 is removed.
- 3.3 In the past, figures were presented on a straightforward basis of performance in Standard Grades and Higher Grades. Now, the introduction of new levels of courses under Higher Still had meant that a different approach has to be taken. This approach suggests that different types of examination are equivalent known as the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF):
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| Level 7: | Advanced Higher at A-C: CSYS at A-C |
| Level 6: | Higher at A-C |
| Level 5: | Intermediate 2 at A-C: Standard Grade at 1-2 |
| Level 4: | Intermediate 1 at A-C: Standard Grade at 3-4 |
| Level 3: | Access 3 Cluster: Standard Grade at 5-6 |
- 3.4 Success in appeals will further improve the results.

4. THE RESULTS

- 4.1 Overall, results in East Ayrshire mirror the National figures. However, East Ayrshire continues to outperform the comparator authorities in the National Priority indicators shown in the tables below. Members are asked to note that as a departure from previous years, West Lothian has been included as a new comparator authority. This is as a result of a new analysis by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education (HMIE). Inverclyde is no longer part of our family group of authorities.

At S4 (mainly Standard Grades)

Table 1: Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ passes at Level 4

	5+ Level 4 (end of S4)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Clackmanannshire	69	66	71	69	64
Falkirk	74	70	73	70	71
North Ayrshire	75	77	72	70	71
North Lanarkshire	75	73	74	74	73
West Lothian	74	73	76	78	77
Family Average	74	73	74	73	73
East Ayrshire	75	77	79	78	76

Table 2: Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ passes at Level 5

	5+ Level 5 (end of S4)				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Clackmanannshire	25	22	25	27	28
Falkirk	29	26	30	28	28
North Ayrshire	29	30	29	29	31
North Lanarkshire	28	28	28	30	27
West Lothian	31	33	33	36	33
Family Average	29	29	29	30	29
East Ayrshire	29	35	31	32	30

Table 3: Percentage of pupils achieving English and Maths by the end of S4

	Percentages and NCDs for pupils achieving English and Maths by end of S4				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Clackmanannshire	88	83	89	89	73
Falkirk	92	89	90	88	87
North Ayrshire	93	92	89	91	90
North Lanarkshire	92	92	90	90	89
West Lothian	91	89	92	94	93
Family Average	92	90	90	91	89

East Ayrshire	92	93	93	91	90
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At S5 (mainly Higher Grades)

Table 4: Percentage of pupils gaining 1+ passes at Level 6

	1+ Level 6				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Clackmanannshire	32	34	30	31	28
Falkirk	34	36	32	36	32
North Ayrshire	37	34	33	31	31
North Lanarkshire	35	35	34	34	34
West Lothian	35	35	36	36	37
Family Average	35	35	34	34	33

East Ayrshire	38	35	38	37	36
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Table 5: Percentage of pupils gaining 5+ passes at Level 6

	5+ Level 6				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Clackmanannshire	6	5	5	4	7
Falkirk	7	7	7	8	6
North Ayrshire	8	9	7	8	7
North Lanarkshire	6	6	7	6	7
West Lothian	8	7	9	9	8
Family Average	7	7	7	7	7

East Ayrshire	7	8	10	8	8
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4.2 Male candidates in East Ayrshire in 2005 have performed better than the comparator authorities and inline with the national average. The decline reported nationally and within the comparator authorities is not evident in East Ayrshire.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 National SQA performance for 2005 has indicated a slight decrease in performance across Scotland. However, performance within East Ayrshire remains above the comparator authorities and, in the case of male attainment, has shown strong improvement. This may be as a result of initiatives' specifically addressing this matter of general concern.

5.2 This information and a detailed breakdown of figures by individual schools will be used by the Quality Improvement Team to support head teachers and subject departments to further improve performance for next year.

5.3 These figures will be of interest to young people and parents. They will therefore be discussed with the Pupil Council and representative parents' groups including school boards.

6. FINANCIAL/POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 These figures show that the education service continues to make a significant contribution to the Improving Opportunities theme of the Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that members:
i) note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

GRS/GRS
17 October 2005

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