

Appendix 1

Moray Council SQA Attainment Overview – August 2020 – Update version 2

Following the cancellation of this year's exam diet for session 2019/20, schools and local authorities were tasked with submitting estimates to be considered for the attainment of young people in S4, S5 and S6.

During session 2019/20 and prior to lockdown, schools continued to focus on all aspects of attainment and learning and teaching to enable us to display a number of key improvements. Results day remained 4 August and on 11 August, the announcement by John Swinney to award candidates their estimate grades or the SQA assigned grades if they were higher, changed the attainment position of schools across Scotland.

Estimates

After a rigorous process for generating and submitting estimates, we had 100% compliance in this area for N5, H and AH.

Overall we have 63% of all estimates being equal to actual grades awarded and 91% of estimates within one band or equal to actual grades. We had 63% of initial estimates being awarded plus an additional 32% of estimates following the 11 August announcement and also 5% of candidates who had higher than estimate grades awarded by SQA.

We have scrutinised the data for each subject and level and we will be working with our secondary subject groups to demonstrate improvement in some areas should we find ourselves in this situation and to provide an increased rigor and reliability for estimates and attainment moving forward.

The Post Certification Review process opened following the revised accreditation decision and schools will be working with learners to submit appeals where appropriate and the outcomes of this process will be confirmed later this term. The 3 categories for appeal are:

- 1 an error within SQA's internal processes for reinstating the original centre estimate
- 2 an administrative error within the centre leading to provision of estimate information to SQA which did not accurately reflect the centre's intention at the time of submission
- 3 discrimination or other conduct contrary to the Equality Act 2010 identified within the centre relating to protected characteristics, leading to the provision of estimate information to SQA which does not accurately reflect the centre's view following investigation of the circumstances carried out by the centre

It is anticipated that these grounds will arise only exceptionally. The date for final submission of estimates is 7 September.

NQ Passes

We are now able to review the overall success of our estimates processes which have seen an increase of A-C passes at S4 for National 5 Qualifications and an increase at Higher for S5 pupils.

Our S4 N5 passes are 91%, an increase from initial award of 84% and an increase from last session of 9%.

Our S5/6 H passes are 89%, an increase from initial award of 78% and an increase from last session of 15%.

English and Maths Performance (A-C Passes)

Our young people have also demonstrated an increase in passes at N5 Maths by 5% to 79%, which increased to 84% and pre-update the N5 English was 86% which was a decrease of 5% from 2019, but this increased to 94% post update. There were also increases in passes at Higher level for English, an increase of 7% to 77% before the update which increased this to 90% and Maths, an increase of 2%, to 72% which after update was 82%.

Breadth and Depth

For S4 our data is:

1@5 – 80.2% - increase of 3% from 2019 and same as pre 11 August

3@5 – 59.2% - increase of 4% from 2019 and 4% from pre 11 August

5@5 – 36.8% - increase of 4% from 2019 and 2% from pre 11 August

For S5 based on S5 our data is:

1@6 – 68.4% - increase of 22% from 2019 and 17% from pre 11 August

3@6 – 40.3% - increase of 13% from 2019 and 12% from pre 11 August

5@6 – 15.2% - increase of 4% from 2019 and 5% from pre 11 August

For S6 based on S6 our data is:

3@6 – 45.2%

5@6 – 2.2%

1@7 – 39.5%

In addition to this, we have an unprecedented number of S4 pupils achieving 7 National 5 qualifications and within that measure, a large number achieving 7As.

In total we have 86 pupils achieving 6 or more N5s at A grade, last year was 34 and 36 achieving 7As at N5 which is unprecedented for Moray as we continue to ensure learner pathways appropriate to our young people. We have 32 pupils achieving 5As at Higher in S5, an increase of 14 from 2019.

Individual Achievements

Across all our schools we have some exceptional achievements at all levels with more young people than ever before attaining 7 grade As at National 5 level in S4 and also 3 and 4 grade As at Advanced Higher level in S6. In Moray, we also have a number of learners who are achieving Highers in S4 and Advanced Highers in S5, which is to be commended.

At S4 we have an increase of those achieving both one and 5 National 5 Qualifications as well as those passing 6 and 7 national qualifications at this stage. At Higher level for our S5 learners, there is almost a 6% increase of those achieving at least one Higher and an improvement in those in both S5 and S6 attaining at least 3 Higher level passes. This year provides us with our highest number of pupils achieving Advanced Higher passes in S6.

Further analysis on attainment results is ongoing and will be supplemented by Insight Benchmarking Tool data which is available in September.

Subject Attainment

At N5 our highly positive subject attainment is in Art and Design, Dance, Design and Manufacture, Drama, French, German, Music, Practical Woodworking, Spanish pre update and this improved to most subjects post update with some work to continue improvement in the Sciences, Geography, Maths

At Higher our highly positive subject attainment is Art and Design, Dance, Design and Manufacture, French, Music pre update and this improved for most subjects post update with some work to improve in Sciences, Engineering Sciences.

SQA Exam Diet 2021

At this time, we await further information from SQA and Scottish Government as to what the exam diet for session 2020/21 will look like and once this is known, schools and practitioners will work with pupils and families to ensure that they are fully prepared for the expectations ahead. A survey was issued to gather views of parents, pupils and staff for exam diet 2021 along with subject specific arrangements for assessment. More information will be available in due course.