



West Lothian
Council

EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

SQA RESULTS 2011 PRE-APPEAL

REPORT BY HEAD OF EDUCATION (QUALITY ASSURANCE)

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the panel of the performance of West Lothian pupils in SQA examinations in 2011.

B. RECOMMENDATION

That the panel:

- Note the continued improvement in SQA examination results.
- Congratulate pupils, parents and school staff on the continuing improvements.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs Being honest, open and accountable Providing equality of opportunities Making best use of our resources Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Standards in Scotland's Schools Act 2000 West Lothian Education Services Local Improvement Plan A detailed analysis of results by gender, disability and ethnicity will be published at a later date.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	SQA results are key performance indicators for the Education Service. Performance indicators on COVALENT have been updated, and will be updated again following publication of post appeal results.
V Relevance to Single	SQA results are key performance indicators for

Outcome Agreement	the Education Service, and are included as outcome indicators within the Single Outcome Agreement.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Core Education Services DSM budget Central Education Services Budgets – Quality Assurance
VII Consideration at PDSP	Underway
VIII Other consultations	Headteachers Education Officers

D. TERMS OF REPORT

The panel should note figures quoted for 2011 are pre-appeal. Figures may therefore rise.

Performance in S4

- Overall performance at Standard Grade shows improvement over a five year.
- Over the five-year period 2007 to 2011 the percentage of pupils attaining 5+ at Level 5 (Standard Grade Credit or equivalent) has risen. It is below the national average for 2011, but remains above the comparator average.
- The percentage of pupils attaining 5+ at Level 4 (Standard Grade General or equivalent) has risen, and is equal to the national and above the comparator average for 2011.
- The percentage of pupils attaining 5+ at Level 3 (Standard Grade Foundation or equivalent) has remained the same, but is above both the national and comparator average for 2010.

Performance in S5

- Performance at Higher Grade has improved over a five year period.
- Over the five year period 2007 to 2011 the percentages of pupils attaining 1+, 3+ and 5+ Level 6 (Higher or equivalent) passes have all risen.
- The percentage attaining 5+ at Level 6 is above comparator authorities, but below the national average for 2011. The percentage attaining 3+ at Level 6 is equal to comparator authorities, but below the national average. The percentage attaining 1+ at Level 6 is below comparator and national averages.
- Initial figures indicate that the pass rate in Higher English has risen from 71% in 2010 to 81% in 2011, and the pass rate in Higher Maths has risen from 76% in 2010 to 79% in 2011.

Other improvements

- The percentage of pupils attaining 1+ Advanced Highers has risen to from 10% to 15%, in the five year period 2007 to 2011. This figure is the highest attained in West Lothian at 1+ Advanced Higher. It is equal to the national average for 2010, and above the comparator average.
- Five pupils passed Science BaccaLaureates, three with distinction. This is an increase from the two BaccaLaureattes obtained in 2010.

E. CONCLUSION

Overall performance in SQA examinations continues to show improvement.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: None

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