

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

COUNCILLOR DAVE HARLING

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: LINDA CLEGG
DATE: 25 SEPTEMBER 2014**

EXAMINATION RESULTS

GCSE

Early indications from GCSE results is that performance in the headline '5 or more GCSEs between grades A* and C, including English and Maths' remained steady at just under 60%. Intelligence from across the region suggests that the regional picture is similar. National data will be available later in the autumn.

Performance in the '5 or more GCSEs between grades A* and C' has fallen following changes in the qualifications that count towards the measure and the capping of the number of GCSEs that any single alternative qualification can count as to one A*-C GCSE. Locally and regionally a fall in the region of 10% seems likely: down from just under 80% of students to just under 70% achieving 5 or more A*-C grade GCSEs.

AS / A Level Results

All 16+ providers are reporting good results for advanced level qualifications but data and comparisons cannot be made at this moment.

UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS UPDATE

The Council has undertaken works to a number of community and controlled schools over the summer holidays to ensure there is sufficient capacity to provide meals in accordance with the Universal Infant Free School Meals programme. Colleagues in the Voluntary Aided Sector have undertaken similar works.

The works completed to date will increase the delivery of school meals from 3150 to 5250 per day in Key stage 1 in Community and Controlled Schools, with an overall capacity across all maintained sector schools of 11940 meals.

Due to the scale of works at Roe Lee Primary and Lower Darwen Primary, the works to the kitchens will continue into the new term, but the schools will be able to meet the needs of pupils.

NEW SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MODEL

School improvement is moving from a 'top-down' model managed by the Local Authority to a collaborative model that is school led. The expectation is that schools will be leading school improvement in partnership with the local authority by 2016. In the new model adopted by Blackburn with Darwen, each school will be part of one of seven School Improvement Groups reporting to a School Improvement Board.

Individual schools will remain accountable for their own outcomes and the Local Authority will still be held accountable for overall outcomes. The Local Authority is also accountable for ensuring that its statutory duties are delivered and will continue to monitor NQT Induction, moderate assessments for Early Years Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 and intervene where there is underperformance.

HEADTEACHERS LEAVING LOCAL SCHOOLS

At the end of the Summer term, four of our Headteachers moved on into retirement or other jobs; Christine Davies from Holy Souls RC Primary, Kath Downham from Our Lady of Perpetual Succour RC Primary, Alison Howarth from St Barnabas CE Primary and Keith Ballard from Our Lady and St John Catholic Arts College.

In addition, there are many other teaching and support staff who are leaving their schools and we wish them well and thank them for their contributions to local schools.