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Education Department
Council Offices
211 Main Street
Barrhead
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To: Head Teachers of All Secondary Schools

Dear Colleagues

Senior Phase Performance 2019 - 2020

Following the annual presentation to Education Committee on our schools' SQA performances and leaver destination results, we wanted to acknowledge formally our gratitude to all staff and pupils for their hard work in continuing to achieve such high standards.

This year the presentation focused on both Excellence and Equity and the Education Committee was especially pleased to hear that the S4, S5 and S6 results were the highest to date in a range of key measures with East Renfrewshire schools consistently performing better than their virtual comparators. In addition, there was clear evidence that schools have continued to raise the bar for all and close the gap, with the pace of improvement for pupils in our least affluent areas faster than for all others.

The very strong performance in terms of leaver destinations was also shared; with 97.5% of 2018/19 leavers going onto positive destinations and 10.9% achieving a vocational qualification at SCQF level 6 or better – the top performing local authority in this measure.

The SQA performance was also commended with the following highlights in particular:

- 81% and 60% of S4 students attaining 5+ and 8+ Level 5 Awards respectively
- 60% of S6 students achieving 5+ Higher Awards
- 45% of S6 students gaining at least 1 Advanced Higher

Committee also noted the improving picture of achievement for key equity groups in S4, S5 and S6. In particular:

- 7% increase between 2017/18 – 2019/20 in 5 or more qualifications at Level 5 for S4 pupils in receipt of free school meals
- 5% increase in the average total cumulative Insight points achieved by S4 pupils living in SIMD deciles 1 – 3 between 2016 and 2020
- 5% increase in the percentage of school leavers living in SIMD deciles 1-2 in a positive destination between 2014/15 and 2018/19



Mark Ratter, Director of Education, East Renfrewshire Offices, 211 Main St, Barrhead G78 1SY

The presentation also recognised the very different context of the 2020 results, with the closure of schools in March and the subsequent cancellation of the exam diet. The estimates process was hugely demanding for staff in all our schools, however, it was clear from the evidence that throughout this process East Renfrewshire schools have done their up most to ensure that the hard work of all our young people was rightly and fairly recognised. The successes that have been highlighted in the senior phase are a tribute to the hard work and dedication of pupils across East Renfrewshire, exceptionally well supported by our staff and parents.

On behalf of the Education Committee we wished to thank everyone for their efforts in securing these outstanding results and look forward to hearing of further improvements next year.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Paul O'Kane
Convenor for Education & Equalities

Yours sincerely



Mark Ratter
Director of Education

