

Our Ref: MR/AV
Your Ref:
Contact:
Tel: 0141 577 3103
Fax: 0141 577 3276
Email: mark.ratter@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk
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Education Department
211 Main Street
Barrhead
G78 1SY

To: Head Teachers of All Schools

Dear Colleagues

Broad General Education and Senior Phase Performance 2020 - 2021

Following the annual presentation to Education Committee on our schools' performance in the Broad General Education (BGE) and Senior Phase, we wanted to acknowledge formally our appreciation of the professionalism of staff and the hard work of pupils in continuing to achieve such high standards.

This year the presentation focused on both Excellence and Equity with the background of school closures and the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic throughout the year. Education Committee was especially pleased to hear about the very strong S4, S5 and S6 results and the effectiveness of the Alternative Certification Model (ACM) implemented across East Renfrewshire. The evidence demonstrated that in the senior phase, across a range of key indicators, East Renfrewshire schools consistently perform better than their virtual comparators. The presentation highlighted the impact of the interventions that schools use, for example study skills courses, which ensure that they continue to raise the bar for all and close gaps in attainment for groups of learners.

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

- 79% of S4 students attaining 5+ Level 5 Awards respectively
- 65% of S6 students achieving 5+ Higher Awards
- Across SIMD deciles 1-10, S6 pupils performed better than the ERC Virtual Comparator, with pupils in deciles 1-7 attaining on average the equivalent of 1 A award at Higher more

The outstanding performance in terms of positive leaver destinations and vocational qualifications was also shared, with 96.2% of 2019-20 leavers going onto positive destinations. In addition 15.8% of leavers achieved a vocational qualification at SCQF level 6 or better – the top performing local authority in this measure.



Committee also noted the success of the recovery curriculum that our schools put in place, along with the high quality remote learning and the support provided during lockdown for vulnerable children and young people through the learning hubs. The impact of the commitment of all staff was evident, with primary attainment in the BGE remaining high. However, the data did underline that within East Renfrewshire the pandemic has had the greatest impact on the most disadvantaged children and young people, with their attainment decreasing more than the overall cohort of primary pupils.

Like 2020, the presentation and discussion recognised the very different context of the 2020-21 results, with the cancellation of the exam diet and closure of schools in January. The ACM was hugely demanding for staff in all of our secondary schools however, it was clear from the evidence that throughout this process East Renfrewshire schools did their utmost to ensure that the hard work of all our young people was rightly and fairly recognised. The successes that have been highlighted in the BGE and 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 wish to thank you and your staff for all your efforts in securing these fantastic results and for the way in which despite the uncertainty you engaged our children and young people in their learning, cared for them in terms of their health and wellbeing and enabled them to flourish.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Alan Lafferty
Convener for Education & Equalities

Yours sincerely



Mark Ratter
Director of Education

