

## NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

8 NOVEMBER 2017

## STATEMENT OF EDUCATION &amp; SKILLS PORTFOLIO HOLDER

**GCSE Results**

DfE have recently published performance outcomes for 2017. The results achieved by young people in North Yorkshire at GCSE in 2017 rank North Yorkshire as 1<sup>st</sup> across the Yorkshire and Humber region (15 LAs) or 2<sup>nd</sup> across region for performance against EBacc measures and in the top 15% of Local Authorities nationally.

2017 Headline Measures	% Pupils	Y & H Ranking
Average Attainment 8 score per pupil	49.3	1
Progress 8	+ 0.17	1
English & Maths Percentage of pupils who achieved a 9-5	49.9	1
English & Maths (Percentage of pupils who achieved a 9-4)	70.4	1
EBacc Percentage of pupils who achieved all components (including a 9-5 pass in English and maths)	26.9	2
EBacc Percentage of pupils who achieved all components (including a 9-4 pass in English and maths)	29.2	2

This year there was a new GCSE grading structure which is now based on numbers from 9 to 1 (with 9 being the top grade) and is not directly equivalent to the previous A\* to G system. It is therefore not possible to provide direct comparison with previous years' attainment levels. However, outcomes from previous years' do provide some useful context. In addition, changes to assessment processes particularly in English caused a high level of disruption leading to a much higher proportion of appeals and some unusual swings in results for some individual schools. The available data indicates that North Yorkshire has performed very well compared to National projections. The proportion of pupils in North Yorkshire achieving a grade 4 or above in English Language is projected to be 76.3% compared to 64.9% nationally and in maths this figure is projected to be 77% compared to 68.9% nationally.

Whilst overall results are very strong, children from disadvantaged backgrounds did less well than we would have liked and support for these learners along with children from vulnerable groups will be a focus of future support. The North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area initiative will support this drive in particular.

**A Level results**

Whilst individual students now know their exam results and individual schools have largely come to the end of appeals processes, validated data across the LA as a whole is not yet available for

A Level results. However, an increase in the Average Point Score (APS) per entry in A Levels (academic students) is expected from 31.51 to 36.06 once results are confirmed placing North Yorkshire in a strong position when compared with other LAs regionally and nationally.

## **School funding**

In recent weeks the DfE has set out proposals and details for school funding from April 2018 and beyond, incorporating a move to a National Funding Formula. This shows that under the government's proposals every school should see an increase in its main formula budget, following a redirection of funding to schools from other DfE budgets. The formula does of course differ from North Yorkshire's own local formula and we continue to have concerns about some of the details – including sparsity funding for secondary schools. As a result we will continue to lobby central government to get the best deal for pupils in the county. Local Authorities will be able to use their own formulae for the next two years. Nevertheless, as the National Formula does not see any schools losing out, we are currently consulting all schools about moving to use that as a basis for 2018-19 budgets. Overall the NFF will deliver approximately £7m of additional funding to the Schools Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant and is to be welcomed.

At the same time, the DfE has set out details of changes to High Needs Funding. This is an area which is causing severe financial pressures across the country. In North Yorkshire our annual budget of £45m has pressures of over £2m. As with the Schools Block, additional funding has been allocated to North Yorkshire, but this will be only £142k next year and does not go far in alleviating those financial constraints. We are therefore also consulting with schools to use – as we are allowed to – up to £1.6m of the increase in the Schools Block as a temporary measure while we seek to address those financial issues. We will also continue to lobby central government for a better deal for children with such needs in North Yorkshire.

## **School Ofsted inspection outcomes**

Overall 89% of children across North Yorkshire attend a good or outstanding school. This is significantly higher than both national and regional averages: 87.5% across England and 82.4% across Yorkshire and the Humber, it places North Yorkshire second in the region.

There have been 12 Ofsted Inspections of schools in the County since 1 September 2017. 10 schools retained the same grading as before, 1 school moved up from Requires Improvement to Good and 1 school dropped from Good to Requires Improvement. During the Spring Term of 2017 a number of schools dropped grades in North Yorkshire many from 'Good' to 'Requires Improvement' or even to 'Inadequate'. This brought the overall percentage of schools achieving good or outstanding across the county down from close to 90% to the current rate. However, this was in line with a national trend. In the same period, close to 50% of those schools nationally that were inspected were judged as Requiring Improvement or Inadequate by Ofsted. The causes were: a change to the Ofsted framework, changes to advice to lead inspectors and a targeting of schools indicating some concern based upon prior risk assessment.

The small number of schools in Ofsted categories of concern have all got a comprehensive support plan and are closely monitored to ensure rapid improvement.

## **School Organisation**

The LA continues to support small schools in exploring their financial sustainability. We continue to have, and will continue to support, more small schools than any other LA in the country. Support is provided to both individual schools and Federations of schools. The Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation (Burnsall, Cracoe, Grassington, Ketlewell) and the BAWB Federation (Bainbridge, Askrigg and West Burton) are two examples of collaborations where the governing bodies are reviewing the sustainability of current arrangements with their communities.

A very small number of closures have become inevitable due to a range of issues including; population shift, parental preference and funding changes. The closure of Ingleby Arncliffe and Swainby and Potto Schools will be effective from 31 December 2017 following the decision by the Executive Member on 5 September 2017.

The statutory notice period for the closure of Skipton Ings Community Primary School closes on 23 November 2017 and the matter will be further considered by the Executive on 5 December 2017. If approved, the school would close on 31 December 2017.

The statutory notice period for the expansion of Malton St Mary's Primary School will run from 1 November 2017 to 29 November 2017 and is scheduled to be determined by Executive on 16 January 2018.

The Governing Body of Ripley Endowed (CE) School are currently undertaking due diligence around a proposal to amalgamate with Burnt Yates (CE) Primary School. Should this proceed it would require statutory proposals to be brought forward in 2018 to effect the technical closure of Burnt Yates and the expansion onto an additional site of Ripley Endowed. Burnt Yates (CE) Primary School was subject to a Directed Academy Order following an Ofsted inspection in December 2016 which judged the school to be 'Inadequate'.

### **Strategic Plan for educational provision for children with SEND**

The Local Authority is currently developing the strategic plan to ensure that we have appropriate provision and sufficiency to meet the needs of children with SEND locally. The plan has been developed with engagement from schools, LA colleagues and parents/carers and will specify the type of provision needed to meet need into the future. The plan will illustrate the future continuum of support required across mainstream, enhanced, alternative and specialist provision and will be published by the end of March 2018 following appropriate consultation and approval.

### **North Yorkshire Coast Opportunities Area**

The North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area Programme is focussed on improving social mobility in Scarborough, Whitby and Filey. The delivery plan for the North Yorkshire Coast Opportunity Area was published on 9th October and can be read [here](#). The delivery plan identifies four initial priorities: Early Years, Literacy, Numeracy and Secondary Schools. Alongside these, there are four critical enabling themes focussing on: skills for employment, mental health and wellbeing, the education workforce and ambition and aspiration.

Alongside the plan, the government announced £800k to support Essential Life Skills. This funding will help children and young people develop skills such as resilience, wellbeing and employability through activities like sports, cultural activities and social action. Funded activities will be part of the broader offer across the area, ensuring that there is sufficient variety and appeal to children and young people of both genders, all backgrounds and across a range of abilities. Decision making on this funding is to be delegated to the Opportunity Area Partnership Board which is chaired by Sir Martin Narey DL and is made up from representations across the public, private and voluntary sectors. NYCC is represented by Paul Brennan, Assistant Director for Education and Skills, and Judith Hay, Assistant Director for Children and Families.

**Cllr Patrick Mulligan**  
**Executive Member for Education and Skills**