

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

10 February 2016

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

An Analysis of Examination Results for Staffordshire Schools 2015

1 Purpose of Report

To present SACRE members with a statistical analysis of the standards achieved in GCSE (Full Course), Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary GCE Religious Studies by pupils examined in the summer of 2015.

2 Summary

Members of SACRE will receive a graphical analysis of the standards achieved.

3 Recommendation

That members of SACRE receive the report.

That letters be sent on behalf of SACRE to identified schools offering congratulations or Support as appropriate.

4 Background

A statistical analysis of the standards achieved by Staffordshire schools in examinations held in summer 2015 is attached to this report.

Key issues identified in the analysis are as follows:

Overall

- a) In 2015 the number of entries for GCSE Full Course has risen again. Since 2012 there are now 2441 more entries for the full course GCSE. Schools are no longer entering students for the short course.
- b) This increase reflects the national changes in the examination system and the de-valuing of the short course GCSE.
- c) The number of schools entering pupils for Full Course GCSE typically fluctuates slightly year on year. This year the number has dropped from 48 in 2014 to 46 in 2015.
- d) It is positive that entries overall have not declined and that examination and accreditation is still favoured at KS4. The Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus recommends that students at KS4 study an approved examination syllabus; these findings show that the vast majority of schools are compliant.
- e) Standards achieved at GCSE have declined only slightly from last year in Staffordshire. This reflects the National trend. This decline may reflect the fact that as the numbers of students have increased, more staff may be teaching RE and those staff may

need further training in teaching the full course. Teaching time for pupils may not have been increased to

- f) take account of the extra content involved in short course.
- g) Overall 445 students across 27 schools were entered for AS level and 333 students across 25 schools were entered for A Level at the end of KS5. There is a substantial increase in the number of entries at both AS and A Level.

Full Course GCSE

- a) The number of schools entering pupils for the Full Course has dropped slightly this year. 46 of Staffordshire's schools enter pupils for Full Course GCSE.
- b) The percentage of pupils attaining grades A* to C in Full Course nationally has decreased. This coincides with a decrease in Staffordshire. For the second time in 2 years Staffordshire students have performed slightly below the national average.

Short Course GCSE

- a) There was no local data for GCSE Short Course RE this year.

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) Level GCE

- a) The number of entries at AS level has risen substantially this year.
- b) The percentage of pupils gaining higher grades A-B is below the national figures.

Advanced (A) Level GCE

- a) The number of pupils entered for A Level (A2) has risen. At the higher grades Staffordshire pupils attainment is below the national average for both boys and girls but the gap is narrowing.

Teachers and pupils in Staffordshire schools are to be congratulated on their hard work and continued efforts to raise the standard of attainment in the County.

5 Equal Opportunities

This report has been prepared in line with the County Council's policy on Equal Opportunities.

6 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications

See Appendix 1