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Argyll and Bute Council
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal Agus Bhòid

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26 August 2020

SUPPLEMENTARY PACK 1

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - **BY SKYPE** on **THURSDAY, 27 AUGUST 2020** at **10:30 AM**

I enclose herewith **item 11 (SQA SCHOOL EXAMINATION MODERATED AWARDS 2020)** which was marked to follow on the Agenda for the above meeting.

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director

ITEM TO FOLLOW

11. SQA SCHOOL EXAMINATION MODERATED AWARDS 2020 (Pages 3 - 12)
Report by Executive Director with responsibility for Education

Community Services Committee

Councillor Jim Anderson	Councillor Rory Colville
Councillor Mary-Jean Devon	Councillor Lorna Douglas
Councillor Kieron Green (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Graham Hardie
Councillor Anne Horn	Councillor Jim Lynch
Councillor Julie McKenzie	Councillor Donald MacMillan BEM
Councillor Yvonne McNeilly (Chair)	Councillor Barbara Morgan
Councillor Iain Paterson	Councillor Alan Reid
Councillor Elaine Robertson	Councillor Andrew Vennard
Margaret Anderson	William Shaw
William Hamilton	Alison Palmer

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

EDUCATION **27 AUGUST 2020**

SQA SCHOOL EXAMINATION MODERATED AWARDS 2020

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Elected Members on the initial outcome of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) 2020 awards.

1.2 The initial SQA awards outcomes for pupils in academic year 2019/20 are subject to a refined appeals process rather than the traditional clerical check and marking reviews process due to the cancellation of formal SQA examinations as a consequence of COVID-19. Schools will make submissions on behalf of individual pupils to the SQA for consideration within expected timescales. As a consequence small changes to the statistical data contained within this report may occur. Further details of the appeals process are included in Appendix 1.

1.3 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

a. Considers and notes the outcome of the initial SQA awards for pupils in academic year 2019/20 ie

I. National 4 results are above the national outcome by 9.1%.
II. National 5 results are above the national outcome by 2.5%.
III. Higher results are below the national outcome by 1.3%.
IV. Advanced Higher results are above the national outcome by 2.6%.

b. Requests that the Executive Director with responsibility for Education provides a further report to the Community Services Committee in December 2020, to allow the consideration of further statistical school and national information, released by Insight (school data analysis tool) in September 2020; and

c. Agree that in session 2020/21 attainment and achievement outcomes will be presented to the Community Services Committee, only following release of Insight data which affords full access to statistical school and national information in relation to attainment and achievement outcomes of the young people of Argyll and Bute.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

EDUCATION **27 AUGUST 2020**

SQA SCHOOL EXAMINATION MODERATED AWARDS 2020

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Council received SQA awards for all pupils entered for formal qualifications in session 2019/20 in August 2020. This provided comprehensive information on the outcome of examination performance for all pupils across each of the ten Argyll and Bute secondary schools.

2.2 Following the cancellation of the formal SQA examination diet due to COVID-19 schools submitted estimate grades relating to each presentation and level made on behalf of each young person. These estimate grades were originally considered, moderated and awards allocated by the SQA to each presentation and level. However, on 11th August the Scottish Government indicated that SQA would change this approach and revert to candidate awards based solely on the estimates provided by schools and colleges. Any learner that was awarded a grade higher than their estimate in the original process maintained their award at the higher level.

2.3 Appendix 1 of this report presents an update to Elected Members on both the authority and school outcomes at National 4 (pass only) and at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher awards (A-C) based on teacher estimates as outlined above.

2.4 The A-D outcomes for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher have yet to be received and are not included in this report. Our authority and school pass rates for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher will likely increase when they are received as a “D” at each level represents a pass for a young person.

2.5 The 2020 presentation pass rates at both school and authority level cannot be used for comparison with previous year’s outcomes as the method of awarding grades is completely different.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

a. Considers and notes the outcome of the initial SQA awards for pupils in academic year 2019/20 ie

I. National 4 results are above the national outcome by 9.1%.
II. National 5 results are above the national outcome by 2.5%.
III. Higher results are below the national outcome by 1.3%.
IV. Advanced Higher results are above the national outcome by 2.6%.

b. Requests that the Executive Director with responsibility for Education provides a further report to the Community Services Committee in December 2020, to allow the consideration of further statistical school and national information, released by Insight (school data analysis tool) in September 2020; and

c. Agree that in session 2020/21 attainment and achievement outcomes will be presented to the Community Services Committee, only following release of Insight data which affords full access to statistical school and national information in relation to attainment and achievement outcomes of the young people of Argyll and Bute.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 This report presents a summary of the initial analysis of the 2020 SQA award outcomes for Argyll and Bute pupils both at authority and school level across our secondary schools based on teacher estimates.

4.2 A further report on the Education attainment and wider achievement will be presented to the Community Services Committee in December 2020 following the publication of updated national performance information on Insight released in September each year.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy – The report links directly to Outcome 3 in the Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement (Education Skills and Training Maximises Opportunities for All); OCTF: Key Objective 1; NIF: Priority 1

5.2 Financial – None

5.3 Legal – None

5.4 HR – None

5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty – None

5.5.1 Equalities – None

5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – None

5.5.3 Islands – None

5.6 Risk – The performance of Argyll and Bute schools in national examinations can significantly enhance or detract from the Council's reputation and attractiveness as an area to work and live in.

5.7 Customer Service – This report provides Elected Members with an overview of service performance.

Douglas Hendry, Executive Director with responsibility for Education

Councillor Yvonne McNeilly, Policy Lead for Education

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APPENDICES
Appendix 1 – SQA Examination Awards 2020

APPENDIX 1

SQA Examination Awards 2020

This report presents an update to elected members on the initial outcome of the SQA 2020 awards at both authority and school level. A range of statistical information is provided illustrating performance of pupils across the range of national measures including:

- National 4;
- National 5;
- Higher, and
- Advanced Higher.

The Council received SQA awards for all pupils entered for formal qualifications in session 2019/20 in August 2020. This provided comprehensive information on the outcome of examination performance for all pupils across each of the ten Argyll and Bute secondary schools.

Following the cancellation of the formal SQA examination diet due to COVID-19 schools submitted estimate grades relating to each presentation and level made on behalf of each young person. These estimate grades were originally considered, moderated and awards allocated by the SQA to each presentation and level. However, on 11th August the Scottish Government, through a Ministerial direction, indicated that SQA would change this approach and revert to candidate awards based solely on the estimates provided by schools and colleges. Any learner that was awarded a grade higher than their estimate in the original process maintained their award at the higher level.

As a Local Authority we received the updated results from the SQA on 26th August 2020. Any candidate who has a grade changed as a result of this update, will receive a new certificate.

This report presents a summary overview of the updated awards issued by SQA following the ministerial direction and draws comparisons of the overall attainment of pupils in Argyll and Bute with pupils nationally.

In Session 2019/20 the **number of presentations** across National 4, National 5, and Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications were as follows:

Qualification Level	Number of Presentations
National 4	1385
National 5	4220
Higher	2451
Advanced Higher	256

Our young people have the opportunity to be presented at different levels throughout their chosen senior phase pathway. This means a young person can undertake subjects at different levels of qualifications eg 2 Advanced Highers, 2 Highers and 1 National 5. Therefore, the entries above include young people across S4, S5 and S6.

The number of pupils involved in the SQA 2020 presentations are as follows:

S4	784
S5	609
S6	395
Total	1788

The combined summary performance of Argyll and Bute Schools in 2020 (Table 1) with regard to SQA awards is as follows:

- Performance at National 4 (pass only) continues at 100% pass and this is **above** the national average. We have outperformed the national average for the last 4 years.

- National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher pass rate is **above** the A-C national average in 2020.

TABLE 1 – COMBINED SUMMARY PERFORMANCE

Qualification Level	Argyll and Bute	National Average	Difference
National 4	100%	90.9%	+9.1%
National 5	91.45%	88.9%	+2.5%
Higher	90.45%	89.2%	+1.3%
Advanced Higher	95.7%	93.1%	+2.6%

ADDITIONAL SQA PRESENTATIONS

As a Local Authority we offer a wide range of opportunities that help to meet the needs of our individual leaners, whilst also supporting a variety of pathways into secure positive destinations.

The results reported within this report **do not include** the following presentations for our young people at this time:

1) College courses at levels 4, 5 and 6
2) National Progression Awards (NPA) at levels 4, 5 and 6
3) Foundation Apprenticeships at level 6
4) Presentation of S3 pupils at levels 4 and 5

In recent years this has increased individual school pass rates considerably once added after the release of Insight data in September and again in February.

UPDATED APPEALS PROCESS

Following the Deputy First Minister's Ministerial Direction to SQA on Tuesday 11 August, relating to SQA's certification model for 2020, SQA have now confirmed that the Deputy First Minister has directed them to provide an updated appeals process for centres.

The revised guidance allows for 3 grounds upon which centres can submit an appeal:

1. Firstly, centres can submit an appeal if they discover that an administrative error was made when they submitted their estimate or entry information for a candidate.
2. Secondly, a centre's internal review process may disclose that a candidate's estimate was affected by discrimination or other conduct by the centre that is unacceptable under the Equality Act 2010.
3. Lastly, where the Head of Centre believes that there has been an error within SQA's internal processes for confirming results to centres following the 11 August announcement, they can also appeal.

The SQA anticipates that in all 3 circumstances such appeals will arise only exceptionally.

Priority will be given for candidates who need to confirm a university or college place. Outcomes of these appeals will be advised to UCAS by 4 September 2020.

The SQA have dedicated learner and parent and carer web pages with resources and support and have been shared by schools with pupils and parent/carers.

TABLE 2

This table presents the overall pass rate for Argyll and Bute at grades A-C for the last three academic years (2018-2020) at National 4 (Pass only), National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. National 4 is not graded A-C or A-D and is awarded as a pass only. For the last 4 years we have consistently performed above the national average in our pass rates at this level.

TABLE 2 - SUMMARY FOR PASS RATE AT A-C:

- Our National 5 pass rate has risen by 12.02%. This is **above** the 2020 national average by 2.5%

- Our Higher pass rate has risen by 17.26%. This is **above** the 2020 national average by 1.3%.

- Our Advanced Higher pass rate has risen by 20.02%. This is **above** the 2020 national average by 2.6%.

TABLE 2:

Course	17/18 (A-C)			18/19 (A-C)			19/20 (A-C)		
	A&B Attainment %	National Attainment %	Difference %	A&B Attainment %	National Attainment %	Difference %	A&B Attainment %	National Attainment %	Difference %
Nat 4	100%	91%	8.90%	100%	89%	11.5%	100%	90.9%	9.1%
Nat 5	79.86%	77.40%	2.46%	79.43%	78.20%	1.2%	91.45%	88.9%	2.5%
Higher	78.79%	76.80%	1.99%	73.19%	74.80%	-1.6%	90.45%	89.2%	1.3%
Adv H	81.90%	80.50%	1.40%	75.68%	79.40%	-3.7%	95.70%	93.1%	2.6%

TABLE 3

Table 3 illustrates the overall performance of Argyll and Bute Secondary Schools across all course levels against each of the four measures for the last 3 academic years.

Key to School abbreviations:

CGS	Campbeltown Grammar School	OHS	Oban High School
DGS	Dunoon Grammar School	RJC	Rothesay Joint Campus
HA	Hermitage Academy	TAR A	Tarbert Academy
IHS	Islay High School	TI HS	Tiree High School
LJC	Lochgilphead Joint Campus	TO HS	Tobermory High School

* **NP – Nil Presentations**

TABLE 3 - SUMMARY:

- All 10 secondary schools maintained their 100% pass rate for National 4 outperforming the national average.
- Nine of our secondary schools were above the 2020 national average for National 5.
- Seven of our secondary schools were above the 2020 national average for Higher.
- Eight of our secondary schools were above the 2020 national average with for Advanced Higher, one school did not present at this level. It should be noted that statistical variance at Advanced Higher level must be carefully interpreted. For example, 100% pass rate can be as a result of one subject presentation resulting in a pass.

TABLE 3: OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF ARGYLL AND BUTE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Diet Year	Course	CGS	DGS	HA	IHS	LJC	OHS	RA	Tar A	Ti HS	To HS	A&B	Difference % in A&B Attainment diet 2019-diet 2020	National
2020	NAT 4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		90.90%
2019	NAT 4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		88.50%
2018	NAT 4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	0.00%	91.10%
2017	NAT 4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		92.80%
2016	NAT 4	91.15%	93.83%	100.00%	100%	98.82%	93.03%	93.01%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	96.17%		93.20%
2020	NAT 5	89.32%	94.69%	91.26%	96.64%	95.80%	84.26%	94.88%	93.85%	90.63%	92.00%	91.45%		88.90%
2019	NAT 5	72.58%	83.83%	83.79%	85.45%	79.19%	73.82%	65.69%	88.28%	67.65%	80.58%	79.43%		78.20%
2018	NAT 5	78.28%	83.41%	83.00%	87.26%	79.91%	72.78%	70.47%	83.46%	81.82%	83.93%	79.86%	12.02%	77.40%
2017	NAT 5	81.27%	83.70%	86.36%	82.20%	83.08%	68.98%	72.46%	89.16%	91.67%	91.55%	81.10%		79.50%
2016	NAT 5	76.23%	82.85%	69.65%	81.86%	78.43%	71.75%	66.36%	85.71%	100.00%	85.92%	76.23%		79.40%
2020	Higher	83.78%	95.00%	88.30%	94.31%	95.94%	87.45%	94.85%	91.36%	60.00%	96.92%	90.45%		89.20%
2019	Higher	67.36%	75.86%	78.25%	73.33%	70.08%	70.65%	53.91%	66.67%	50.00%	77.42%	73.19%		74.80%
2018	Higher	74.21%	80.80%	82.67%	75.74%	72.63%	75.94%	69.62%	80.00%	83.33%	83.67%	78.79%	17.26%	76.80%
2017	Higher	74.10%	75.00%	79.50%	73.55%	80.00%	67.70%	72.52%	83.10%	50.00%	77.68%	75.89%		77.00%
2016	Higher	78.51%	80.91%	79.80%	76.88%	70.08%	77.62%	71.61%	81.67%	78.57%	87.91%	78.29%		77.20%
2020	Adv H	93.33%	93.75%	94.69%	85.71%	100.00%	97.30%	100.00%	100.00%	NP*	100.00%	95.70%		93.10%
2019	Adv H	80.00%	69.57%	79.56%	81.82%	94.44%	51.72%	76.47%	66.67%	33.33%	76.92%	75.68%		79.40%
2018	Adv H	66.67%	82.14%	83.44%	81.82%	75.56%	84.85%	100.00%	90.00%	NP*	77.78%	81.90%	20.02%	80.50%
2017	Adv H	93.75%	56.67%	78.63%	60.00%	96.30%	79.07%	57.14%	100.00%	100.00%	72.73%	76.98%		80.00%
2016	Adv H	61.90%	76.19%	78.63%	40.00%	75.47%	80.77%	50.00%	100.00%	87.50%	42.86%	75.22%		81.70%

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