ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

EDUCATION **8 DECEMBER 2020**

EDUCATION PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYSIS 2020

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The main purpose of this report is to provide an overview of key performance data and outcomes for all pupils across each of the ten secondary schools for session 2019-2020 using the local authority data available.

1.2 Due to a delay in the release of Insight data this report does not include statistical analysis usually available at this time of year which would normally an overview of authority data and allow further comparison with virtual comparator and national data.

1.3 Insight is the national benchmarking tool that is designed to allow fair comparison of a group of pupils in Argyll and Bute with larger groups of pupils taken from all the other 31 local authorities with similar backgrounds (gender, additional support need, stage, and SIMD band). This is known as the Virtual Comparator (VC) and is a key feature of Insight.

1.4 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

a) Notes the contents of this report and Appendices attached;

b) Notes that pupil performance and outcomes are based on teacher estimates and not through examination performance as in previous years; and

c) Agree that Local Authority and school performance would be considered further when the data from insight is made available and that this tool continues to be used by all secondary schools and teaching staff in Argyll and Bute to support improvement in educational outcomes for our young people.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

EDUCATION **8 DECEMBER 2020**

EDUCATION PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYSIS 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 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.

2.4 The Insight data that is usually available in September each year from the National Benchmarking tool has not yet been released to Local Authorities and schools. Currently, there is no timescale that has been identified for release of this data.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:

a) Notes the contents of this report and Appendices attached;

b) Notes that pupil performance and outcomes are based on teacher estimates and not through examination performance as in previous years; and

c) Agree that Local Authority and school performance would be considered further when the data from insight is made available and that this tool continues to be used by all secondary schools and teaching staff in Argyll and Bute to support improvement in educational outcomes for our young people.

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 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.

4.2 Following the release of the results Education Services conducted an initial analysis of the results to support the preparation of a summary report (Appendix 1) for presentation to and consideration by Elected Members at Committee in September 2020.

4.3 As presented to the Committee in September the outcome of the initial SQA examination results for pupils in academic year 2019/20 are outlined in the table below:

Qualification Level	Argyll and Bute	National Average	Difference
National 4	100%	90.9%	+9.1%
National 5	91.4%	88.9%	+2.5%
Higher	90.5%	89.2%	+1.3%
Advanced Higher	95.7%	93.1%	+2.6%

SUMMARY:

- National 4 results are above the national outcome by 9.1%.
- National 5 results are above the national outcome by 2.5%.

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- Higher results are above the national outcome by 1.3%.
- Advanced Higher results are above the national outcome by 2.6%.
- 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.

4.4 Appendix 2 outlines the outcomes in national qualifications for the last 3 years from 2017-2020 and emerging trends. It also outlines the percentage of young people in Argyll and Bute gaining 1, 3 and 5 qualifications at SCQF levels 5 and 6 (National 5 and Higher) compared with national outcomes.

4.5 The Education Service will continue to take forward its programme of support and challenge with schools across the authority to secure further improvement in attainment and achievement outcomes for pupils. We will also continue to respond to emerging issues related to Covid-19 in relation to the SQA 2021 diet of examinations.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 This report presents an overview of the key performance data that Argyll and Bute has to date and details outcomes for all pupils across the ten secondary schools for session 2019-2020 incorporating the information received from the SQA.

5.2 In 2020 the A-C and A-D pass rates for the young people in Argyll and Bute were above the national average in National 4, National 5, and Higher and Advanced Higher qualifications. Central Officers continue to take forward a programme of support and challenge with schools across the authority involving a range of actions and measures to support schools to secure further improvement in examination outcomes for pupils.

5.3 Heads of Service and Area Managers also meet regularly with Head Teachers to ensure appropriate levels of both scrutiny and collaboration around performance and securing positive outcomes for young people. This work is reinforced and enhanced by central staff through their involvement with national performance networks which allows them to share best practice with wider Local Authority colleagues.

5.4 Head Teachers will present individual school performance analysis using the data currently available, along with a wider holistic update at local area committees in December.

5.5 The Service will also continue to respond to emerging issues related to Covid-19 in relation to the SQA 2021 diet of examinations.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Policy: This 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

6.2 Financial: None

6.3 Legal: None

6.4 HR: None

6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:

6.5.1 Equalities – None

6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty

6.5.3 Islands – Amendments to rezoning policy would apply to Island schools.

6.6 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.

6.7 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

Louise Connor, Head of Service: Education – Learning and Teaching

Douglas Morgan, Education Manager: 3-18 Curriculum

5th November 2020

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Paper presented to Community Services Committee: September 2020

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	91.4%	88.9%	+2.5%
Higher	90.5%	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.

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.

- 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.

- 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 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	RJC	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 %	100%	98.82%	93.03%	93.01%	100%	100%	100%	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%	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%	97.30%	100%	100%	NP*	100%	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%	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%	100%	72.73%	76.98%		80.00%
2016	Adv H	61.90%	76.19%	78.63%	40.00%	75.47%	80.77%	50.00%	100%	87.50%	42.86%	75.22%		81.70%

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

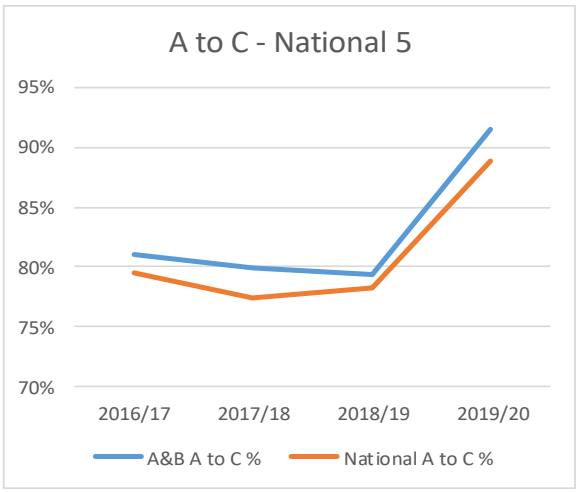
*** NP – Nil Presentations**

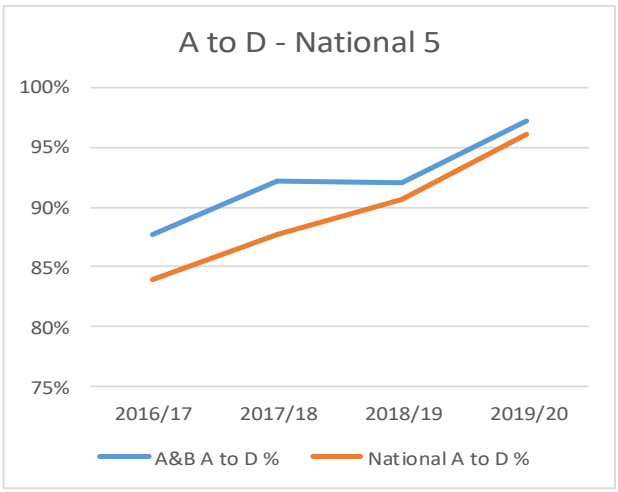
APPENDIX 2

OUTCOMES IN NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS - 2017-2020

National 5:

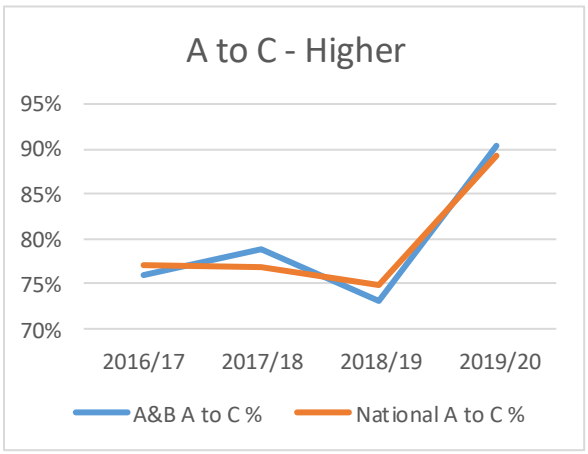
National 5 A-C and A-D pass rates in Argyll and Bute remain greater than the national average. This continues the trend of the past three years.

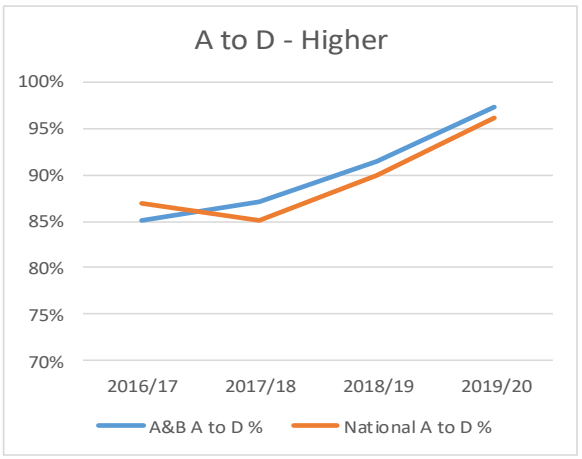




HIGHER

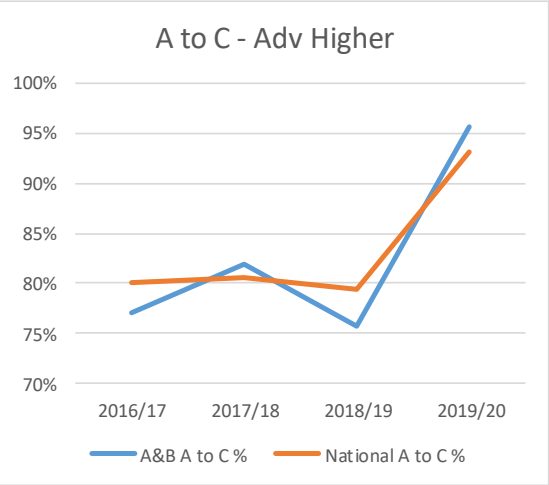
Higher A-C pass rates in Argyll and Bute increased greater than the trend nationally, and in doing so, rose above the national average figure. Higher passes at A-D in Argyll and Bute increased in 2019-2020 in line with the national trend and remain above the national average figure.

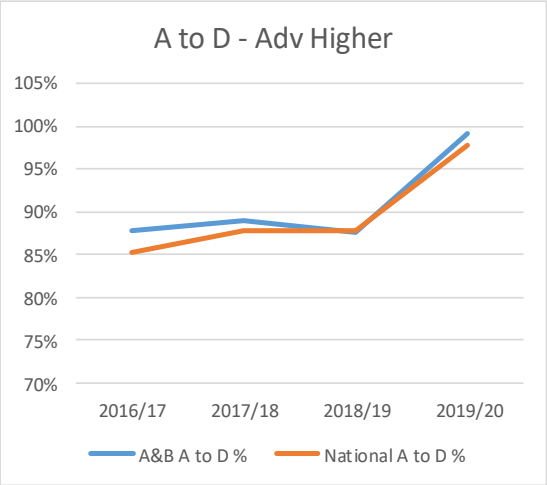




ADVANCED HIGHER

Advanced Higher A-C passes in 2019-2020 increased greater than the national trend, and in doing do, rose above the national average figure. Advanced Higher passes at A-D rose in 2019-20 and remains above the National Average figure.



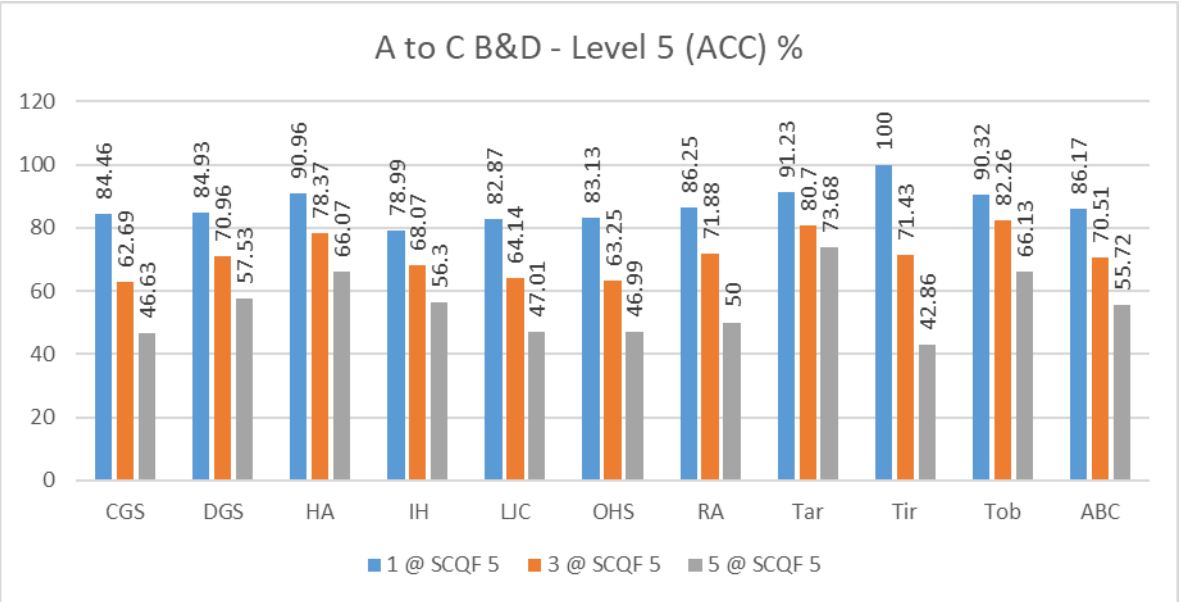


2019 – SCQF LEVELS 5 and 6 – Breadth and Depth

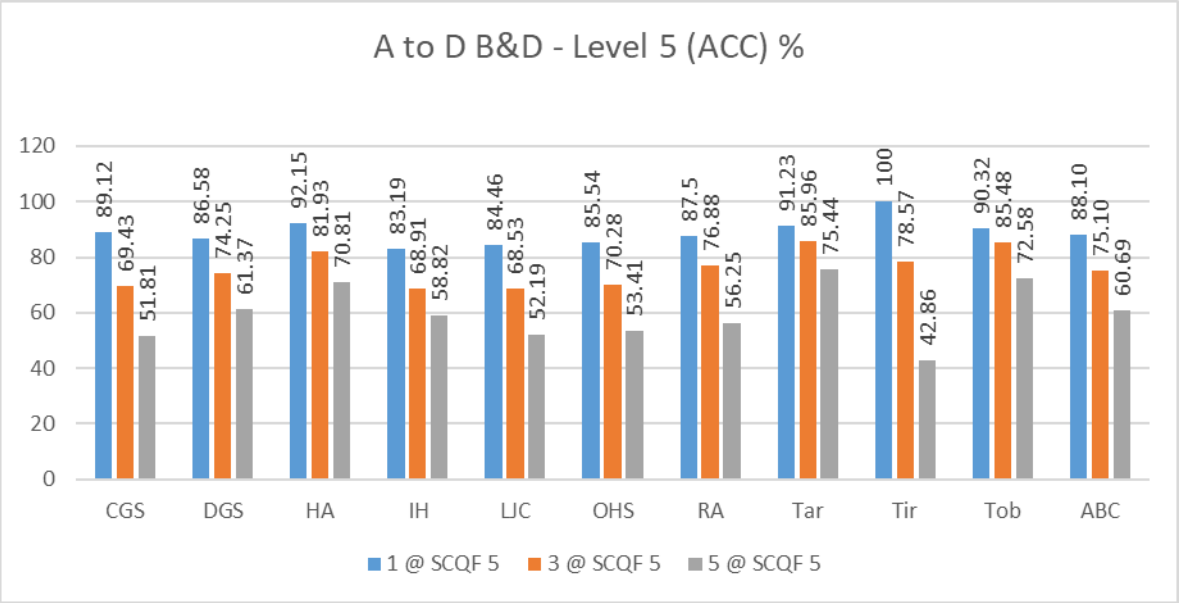
The graphs below demonstrate the percentage of young people in Argyll and Bute gaining 1, 3 and 5 qualifications at SCQF levels 5 and 6 (National 5 and Higher).

National or VC figures, which would allow for a more detailed comparison have not yet been released. Therefore, individual schools are outlined below for comparison against the Argyll and Bute average, which is on the far right of each graph.

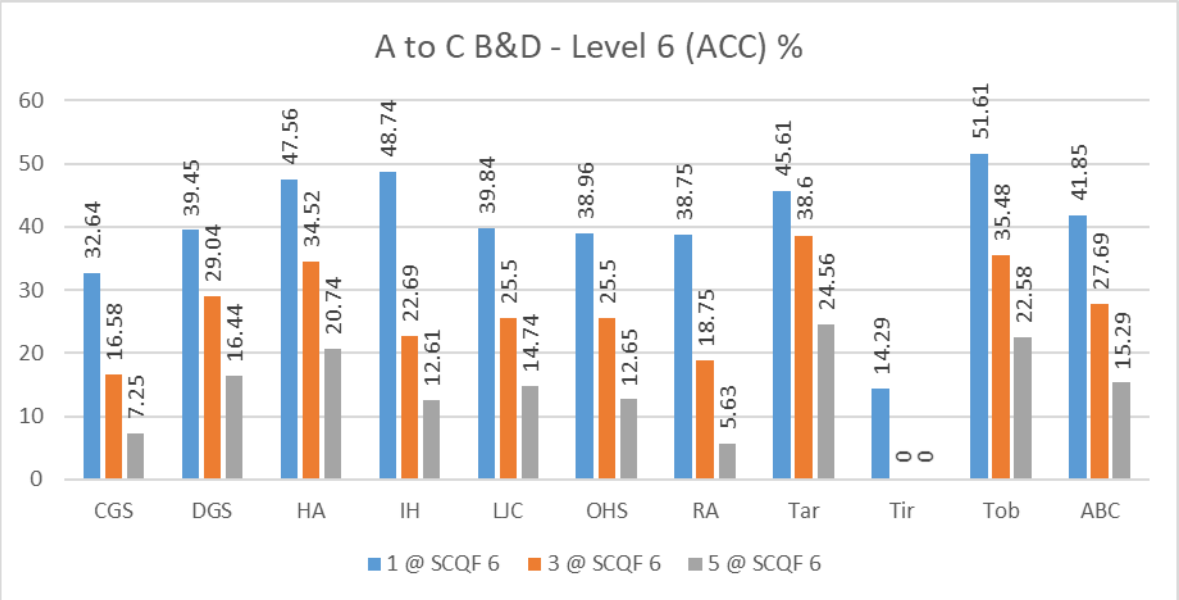
National 5: Accumulated Breadth and Depth – A-C Passes



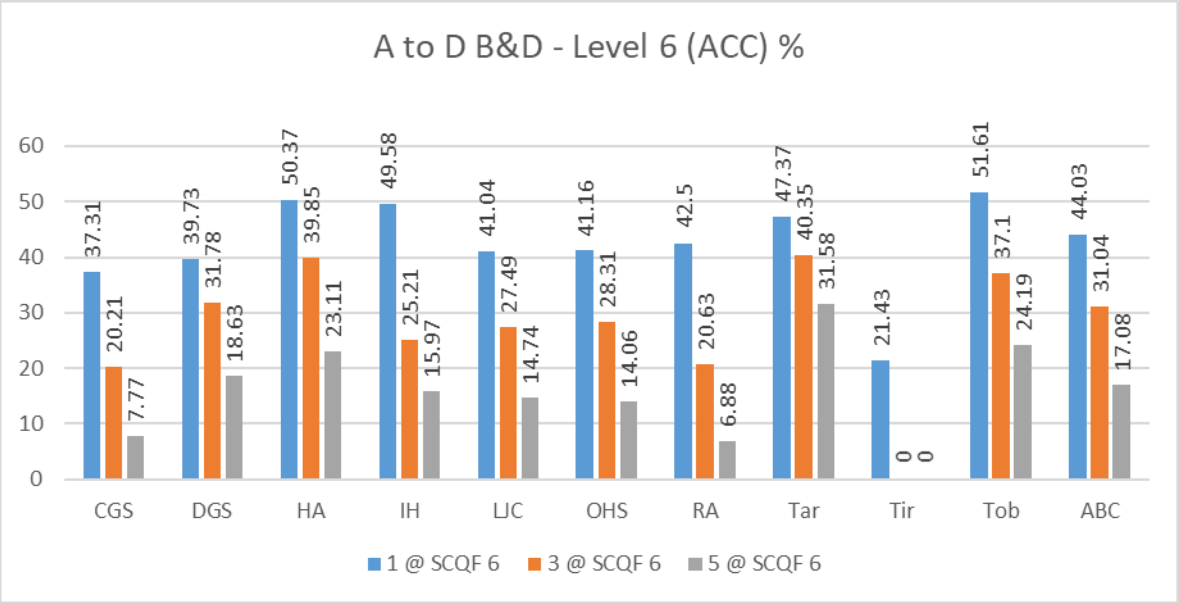
National 5: Accumulated Breadth and Depth – A-D Passes



Higher: Accumulated Breadth and Depth – A-C Passes



Higher: Accumulated Breadth and Depth – A-D Passes



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