

SQA SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION AWARDS 2021

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Elected Members on the outcome of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) Alternative Certification Model 2021 awards.
- 1.2 In response to Covid-19 an alternative certification model was instigated by the SQA to ensure that Senior Phase pupils would be accredited for their national qualification courses at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher level.
- 1.3 The Education Service worked with Head Teachers to implement this model and submitted provisional results to the SQA by the deadline date of the 25th June 2021. SQA will issue national qualification awards to our pupils on the 10th August 2021.
- 1.4 It is recommended that the Community Services Committee:
- a. Considers and notes the outcome of the initial SQA awards for pupils in academic year 2020/21 ie
 - National 4 results are 100%
 - National 5 results are 87.33%
 - Higher results are 90.15%
 - Advanced Higher are 91.41%

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Council received SQA awards for all pupils entered for formal qualifications in session 2020/21 in August 2021. This provided comprehensive information on the outcome of the alternative certification model 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 provisional results relating to each presentation and level made on behalf of each young person. The SQA also developed an appeals process for any young person unhappy with their provisional result(s).
- 2.3 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) and (A-D) based on provisional results as outlined above.
- 2.4 The 2021 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 2020/21 ie
 - National 4 results are 100%
 - National 5 results are 87.33%
 - Higher results are 90.15%
 - Advanced Higher are 91.41%

4.0 DETAIL

4.1 This report presents a summary of the initial analysis of the 2021 SQA award outcomes for Argyll and Bute pupils both at authority and school level across our secondary schools based on the alternative certification model.

4.2 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 outcomes include young people across S4, S5 and S6.

4.3 Any young person that was unhappy with their provisional results could appeal directly to the SQA on their website. The registration service for appeals opened on Friday 25th June and closed on Thursday 12th August. Appeals were processed by the SQA after Results Day on Tuesday 10th August. The appeals process can be accessed for further information using the following link:

[SQA Appeals 2021 - what you need to know](#)

4.4 This table presents the overall pass rate for Argyll and Bute at grades A-C at National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels in comparison with the national average.

Diet Year	Course	Argyll and Bute – A to C awards	National – A to C awards	Difference from National - A-C
2021	National 4	100%	86.1%	+13.9%
2021	National 5	87.33%	85.8%	+1.5%
2021	Higher	90.15%	87.3%	+2.9%
2021	Advanced Higher	91.41%	90.2%	+1.2%

4.5 This table illustrates A-C presentation pass rates at school level across our secondary schools based on the 2021 alternative certification model.

Course	CGS	DGS	HA	IHS	LJC	OHS	RJC	Tar	Tir	Tob
N4	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
N5	85.2%	85.5%	90.3%	93.3%	92.7%	82.4%	86.2%	86.3%	72.5%	94.6%
Higher	91.1%	90.7%	89.9%	94.6%	90.3%	87.4%	89.3%	95.6%	78.6%	97.3%
Adv H	84.6%	90%	93.1%	90%	96%	89.8%	81.8%	100%	NP	100%

- Data has been rounded to one decimal point
- NP – Nil Presentations

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

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 This report presents a summary of the initial analysis of the 2021 SQA award outcomes for Argyll and Bute pupils both at authority and school level across our secondary schools based on the alternative certification model.

5.2 Further updates will be brought to the December 2021 Committee regarding SQA and Insight data and examination arrangements for national qualifications for Session 2021-22.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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
- 6.2 Financial – None
- 6.3 Legal – None
- 6.4 HR – None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty – None
 - 6.5.1 Equalities – None
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty – None
 - 6.5.3 Islands – None
- 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.

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