

SENIOR PHASE BENCHMARKING TOOL (Insight)

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Scottish Government and its partners are developing a new online tool to help analyse, compare and improve the learning and teaching of pupils in the senior phase (S4-6).
- 1.2 This report provides an overview of the Senior Phase Benchmarking Toolkit (to be renamed "Insight") and its introduction.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- Note ongoing developments with performance evaluation of senior phase qualifications
 - Agree to receive further reports on the development of the Senior Phase Benchmarking Toolkit (Insight) as appropriate
 - Note the proposed presentation on Insight at the members seminar on 2nd June 2014

3.0 DETAIL

- 3.1 Curriculum for Excellence is a coherent approach to education for learners of 3-18 years of age. It involves young people in active learning, problem solving, working together, personalisation, recognising wide achievements and utilising technology.

For secondary pupils, learning consists of a Broad General Education (BGE) till the end of S3 and a Senior Phase from S4-6.

During the Senior Phase young people will: continue to develop the four capacities; have opportunity for specialism, depth and rigour; and work towards achieving qualifications at the highest level of which they are capable. The qualifications available to young people through the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) are changing to better reflect Curriculum for Excellence.

- 3.2 The Senior Phase of Curriculum for Excellence began in academic session 2013-14 for pupils in S4. New qualifications include National 3, 4 and 5 which replace Standard Grade and Intermediate

1 and 2 qualifications. National 1 and 2 qualifications are also available to meet the needs of learners with specific learning requirements, replacing Access 1 and 2 qualifications. (Appendix 1 – Qualification overview).

- 3.3 The Scottish Government and its partners are developing a new Senior Phase Benchmarking Tool (Insight) to help local authorities and secondary schools analyse, compare and improve the performance of pupils in the senior phase of Curriculum for Excellence. The new online tool will be live from August 2014 onwards and will replace Standard Tables and Charts (STACS), the previous approach used. Members will be familiar with the STACS reports presented annually and the increasing concern that they did not represent all attainment given the increasingly expansive range of alternative qualifications gained by pupils in Argyll and Bute. The new Insight system will help to address this concern.
- 3.4 A preview edition of Insight is available and schools in Argyll and Bute have been able to access this. Head Teachers, Campus Principals, and Depute Head Teachers recently had opportunity to attend a briefing led by the Professional Advisor to the project. A summary presentation will also be made to elected members at the scheduled members' seminar on 2 June 2014.

Nationally co-ordinated events for schools will take place between April and June prior to implementation of the Insight system in August 2014.

Insight will:

- Provide data on four national measures which have been carefully selected to support Curriculum for Excellence
- Replace the current STACs from August 2014
- Be easier and more intuitive to use than STACs and include data on 'latest and best' pupil awards
- Include a wider range of SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) credit-rated awards and programmes
- Include commentaries to aid interpretation and prompt a closer look
- Be used by secondary schools, local authorities and Education Scotland. It will be available to all teaching staff in secondary schools
- Provide more information on educational outcomes including post-school destinations and attainment in literacy and numeracy
- Contribute to the tracking of looked after children, and facilitate tracking by socio economic background
- Be one of a range of approaches to performance evaluation and improvement. Others include local analyses and self-evaluation processes both at school and local authority level, the Scottish Survey of Literacy and Numeracy (SSLN) and Education Scotland inspection processes.

The tool will encourage:

- Professional reflection and compare schools to a 'virtual' comparator allowing users to see how the performance of their pupils compares to a similar group of pupils from across Scotland
- A collaborative approach to looking at data and working together as part of the improvement process encouraging schools to identify learning partners

3.5 Insight has been designed to show a rounded picture of performance.

- A national dashboard will show the four nationally consistent measures for schools and local authorities.
 1. Increasing post-school participation
 2. Improving attainment in literacy and numeracy
 3. Improving attainment for all
 4. Tackling disadvantage by considering how we can 'close the gap' in attainment within different parts of the pupil population
- A local dashboard will contain further information about schools and local authorities: curriculum subjects; courses; learning partners
- It is expected that more measures will follow

An illustration of the dashboard layout is shown at Appendix 2.

3.6 The timeline for the introduction of Insight is as follows:

Summer 2014

- National measures will include leavers' data from 2013
- Local measures will include attainment data for cohorts from 2014

Early 2015

- National measures will include leavers' data from 2014
- Local measures will have updated attainment data for cohorts from 2014

Summer 2015

- National measures will include leavers' data from 2014
- Local measures will have attainment data for cohorts from 2015

Early 2016

- National measures will include leavers' data from 2015
- Local measures will have updated attainment data for cohorts from 2015.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Policy - None

4.2 Financial - None

4.3 Legal - None

4.4 HR - None

4.5 Equalities- Insight facilitates improved analysis and tracking of pupil performance from socio economic perspective, looked after children, children with additional support needs, etc

4.6 Risk - None

5.7 Customer Service – Improved analysis and presentation of a more rounded set of attainment information.

Cleland Sneddon

Executive Director of Community Services

March 2014

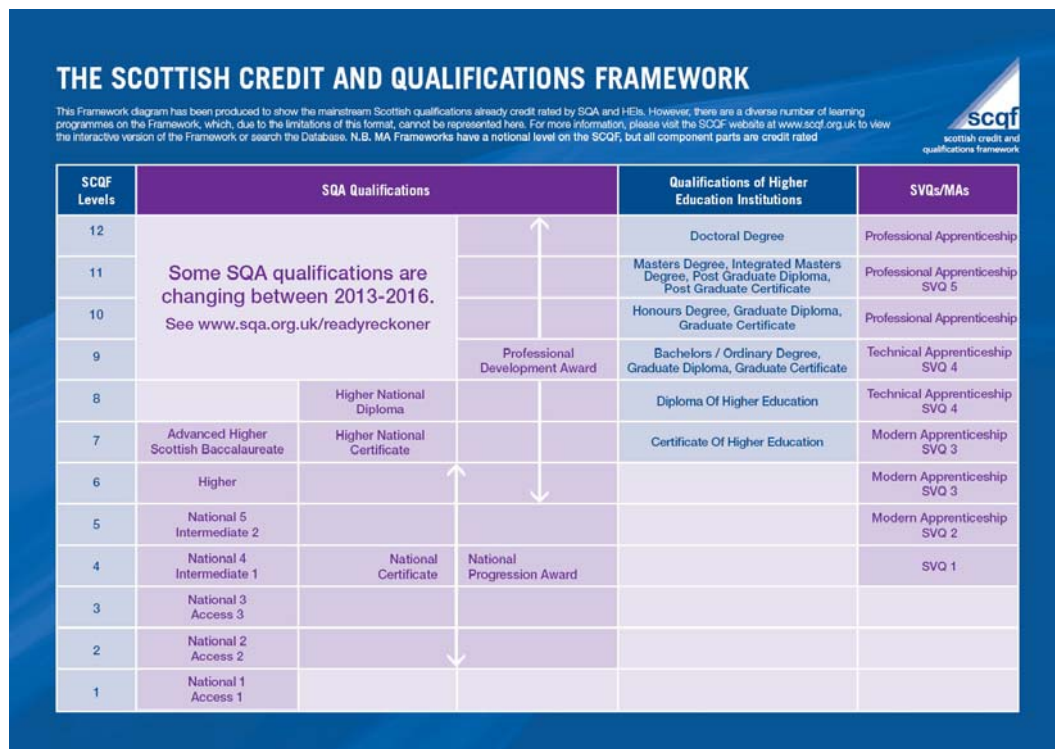
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Appendix 1

SCQF (Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework)	New National Qualifications	Replaces	
1 and 2	National 1 and National 2	>	Access 1 and Access 2
3	National 3	>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access 3 • Standard Grade (Foundation Level)
4	National 4	>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Grade (General Level) • Intermediate 1
5	National 5	>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Grade (Credit Level) • Intermediate 2
6	Higher (available 2015)	>	Higher
7	Advanced Higher (available 2016)	>	Advanced Higher

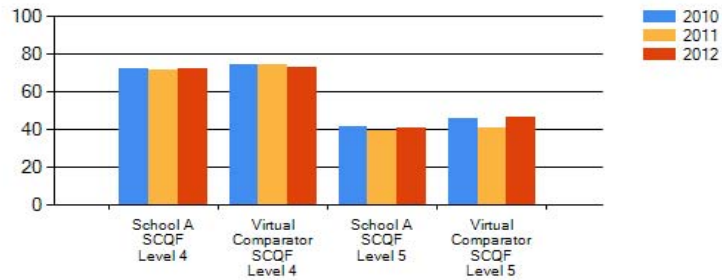


Appendix 2

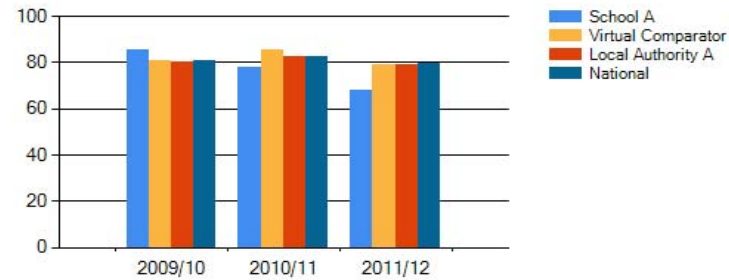
The Dashboard

Dashboard

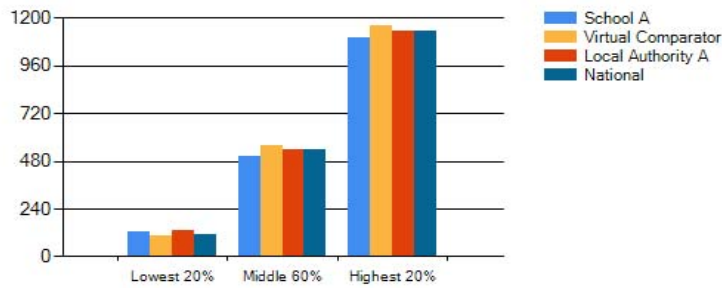
Improving attainment in literacy and numeracy
Percentage of Leavers Attaining Literacy and Numeracy



Increasing post-school participation
Percentage of School Leavers in a Positive Destination



Tackling disadvantage by improving the attainment of lower attainers relative to higher attainers
Average Total Tariff Score



Improving attainment for all
Attainment versus Deprivation

