

YEAR 2003 PROVISIONAL RESULTS FOR HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

**Report By: Head of Inspection, Advice and School
Performance Service**

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

1. To consider the Summer 2003 **provisional** results at Key Stages 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for Herefordshire Schools

Financial Implications

2. None

Report

3. Each summer, pupils sit national tests at the ages of 7, 11, 14 and 16, (i.e. Key Stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively). Post 16 (Key Stage 5) pupils sit a range of examinations, including 'A' Levels and GNVQ. The Government has decided that the performance of schools and of LEAs should be measured principally by the percentage of pupils who attain defined thresholds at each Key Stage.
4. The results for the Year 2003 outlined below are **provisional** and subject to a margin of error, in general, of + or – 1% due to a number of papers being remarked, particularly in English at Key Stages 2 and 3.
5. Overall, the results indicate another positive performance in Herefordshire. At the primary stage results seem to have reached a plateau. At Key Stage 3 (14 year olds) achievement levels have risen in maths and science but fallen in English. At Key Stage 4 (16 year olds) GCSE figures have continued to improve significantly.
6. **Key Stage 1: (7 year olds)** The national target standard for Key Stage 1 is level 2 or above. Level 2 is divided into 3 bands - level 2c (lowest), 2b, and 2a (highest). Pupils are tested in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The results listed below indicate the percentage of pupils achieving Level 2 or above, with the 2002 results in brackets alongside.

2003 Level 2+	Reading	Writing	Maths
Herefordshire	87 (86)	84 (88)	91 (89)
National	84 (84)	81 (86)	90 (90)

7. These Key Stage 1 results are unlikely to alter significantly. The results are not dissimilar from 2002 and show that the County remains above the national average, with the weaker performance in writing reflecting a national picture that is repeated at

Key Stage 2. Girls continue to outperform Boys by 4% in Reading, 8% in Writing and 2% in Mathematics.

8. **Key Stage 2: (11 year olds)** The national target standards for Key Stage 2 is Level 4 and the spread of results normally ranges between Level 3 and Level 5. The established expectation is that pupils need to achieve Level 4 when they leave primary school in order to access the secondary school curriculum. However there is a considerable difference between a pupil who just manages a Level 4 and one who just misses a Level 5 and increasingly sophisticated value added data is now available that tracks pupils' potential achievements in secondary schools.
9. At Key Stage 2, pupils sit tests in English, maths and science. In English, the results of Reading and Writing are combined to give a single level for the subject. The provisional results listed below indicate the percentage of pupils achieving Level 4 plus or Level 5. Last year's 2002 figures are in brackets.

2003 Level 4 +	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	76 (76)	73 (74)	90 (88)
National	75 (75)	73 (73)	87 (86)

2003 Level 5 +	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	26 (30)	30 (28)	45 (41)
National	26 (28)	28 (27)	40 (37)

10. It must be stressed again that these are 'early release' figures and are subject to an error of at least +or -1%.
11. The English figures are likely to be subject to some variation as several schools are awaiting the outcomes of papers returned for re-marking and the figure for Level 5 in English is expected to rise.
12. An early interpretation of the results suggests that Herefordshire is not dissimilar from the national picture in that the County appears to have reached a plateau for the results at the end of Key Stage 2. The figures indicate some movement at the margins, both up and down, at Levels 4 and 5, but no 'step change' in performance that would take the percentage of Level 4s in English and Maths beyond the 80% mark.
13. It is, however, worth noting that, if their English test is separated into Reading and Writing at Level 4 and above, 82% of pupils achieved this level in Reading but only 58% in Writing. At Level 5 the performance gap between Reading and Writing is around 30%
14. **Key Stage 3: (14 year olds)** The national target standard for Key Stage 3 is Level 5 and the spread of results normally ranges from Level 3 to 6. The Levels 5 and 6 results indicated below are 'early release' figures and must be treated with some caution. Several high schools re-submitted their pupils' English papers for re-marking and at the time of writing this report the results were not yet known.
15. The best estimate is that the maths and science results for Key Stage 3 are broadly correct but that the Level 5+ and Level 6 English figure should rise by 2-3%. In the table below the figures for 2002 are in brackets.

2003 Level 5 +	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	69 (74)	77 (74)	75 (74)
National	68 (66)	70 (67)	68 (66)

2003 Level 6	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	35 (39)	55 (53)	46 (41)
National	34 (32)	49 (45)	40 (33)

16. The provisional results indicate continued steady improvements in maths and science but a drop in performance in English the extent of which may have been exaggerated by these 'early release' figures. At Level 5+, girls out performed the boys by 12% in English, by under 1% in maths but were 2% behind boys in science.
17. **Key Stage 4: (16 year olds)** The results of pupils' performance at GCSE are 'early release' figures submitted to the Education Directorate by the fourteen high schools. Some schools are awaiting the outcome of papers sent for re-marking and the overall figures have not been audited nationally. At the time of writing this report the Herefordshire figures are likely to be correct within a margin of error of plus or minus 1%. Last years 2002 figures are in brackets.

GCSE 2003	5+A*-C	5+A*-G
Herefordshire	58 (56)	92 (92)
National	N/A (51)	N/A (87)

18. These initial figures suggest that overall there has been yet another 2% rise in the 5A*-C benchmark figure to 58%. This is a 10% rise on the figure for 1998 at the start of the new Council.
19. The individual school range in 2002 was from 33% to 73% but will be wider in 2003, ranging from 22% to 82%.
20. **Key Stage 5: (18 year olds)** Trends in 'A' level results remain difficult to determine across the County. Only a small proportion (approximately 10%) of pupils remain in the four school-based sixth forms at Lady Hawkins, Minster College, John Masefield and John Kyrle. The majority of pupils from the Country 11-16 High schools attend the Sixth Form College or other Post 16 provision in Hereford City.
21. AS Levels are taken at 17 (Year 12) and A2 examinations at 18 (Year 13) and are combined to give an average point score. In 2003 the average point score per candidate at Lady Hawkins was 260, John Masefield 224, Minster College 205, John Kyrle 185. The Hereford Sixth Form College, which accounts for most of the 18 year old students taking 'A' Levels in maintained schools and colleges, had an average point score of 346. The average for all maintained 18 year old students in Herefordshire was in the region of 300. The method of calculating average point scores is now different making retrospective comparisons with previous years very problematic. No national comparators are currently available.
22. Early indications suggest that the Hereford Sixth Form College is one of the best performing in the Country and that across Herefordshire the majority of pupils were offered a place at their first choice of University.

23. Implications for the LPSA targets:**Target 9**

The LPSA outcome for Target 9 is for 62% of pupils to achieve 5A*-C grades at GCSE in 2004. The provisional figure for 2003 is 58.6%.

Target 10

The LPSA outcome for Target 10 is for

- (a) 31% of pupils to achieve 5 A*-B grades at GCSE in 2004. The provisional figure for 2003 is 30%.
- (b) 18% of pupils to achieve a Level 5 in all three subjects at Key Stage 2 (11 year olds). The provisional figure for 2003 is 16% but is likely to rise when the results of re-marking have been completed.

Target 6

The LPSA outcome for Target 6 is for 5 'looked after' students (17.2%) to achieve 5+ grades at A to C by March 2005. The results of the individual students who took the summer 2003 GCSE exams are currently being collated from schools.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee comment on the progress achieved in the last year, and identify any matters requiring particular attention.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.