

## YEAR 2004 RESULTS FOR HEREFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS

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

### Wards Affected

Countywide

### Purpose

1. To consider the Summer 2004 **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 2004 are still provisional and are subject to a margin of error, in general, of + or – 1% because schools in all phases have returned a number of papers for re-marking. National comparative data is not yet always available or remains provisional. In addition, the Key Stage 3 English results have been withheld due to extensive difficulties with the accuracy of the marking and are not likely to be available before the end of September.
5. Overall, the results indicate another successful year for pupils and schools across the County with some significant improvements at the end of primary school in English and Maths, and a sustained level of high performance at Secondary schools. Again, the results reflect well on Herefordshire schools and the commitment given by the Council for the provision of good professional support and the highest possible level of resources in school budgets.
6. **Key Stage 1: (7 year olds)** The national target standard for Key Stage 1 is level 2 or above. Level 2 is sub-divided into 3 bands – level 2c (lowest), 2b and 2a (highest). Pupils can also achieve a level 3 which is above the expected standard. The results listed below indicate the percentage of pupils achieving level 2 or above, with the 2003 results in brackets alongside.

Level 2+ %	Reading	Writing	Maths
Herefordshire	87 (87)	82 (84)	91 (91)
National	85 (84)	82 (82)	90 (90)

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For further information on the subject of this report is available from  
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7. The results at Key Stage 1 are broadly similar to last year and in line with the national average.
8. **Key Stage 2: (11year olds)** The national target standard for Key Stage 2 is level 4, with the spread of results normally ranging from level 3 to 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.
9. Pupils are tested in English, maths and science. In English, reading and writing are combined to give a single level for the subject. The provisional results below indicate the percentage of pupils achieving level 4 plus or level 5. Last year's (2003) figures are in brackets.

2004 Level 4 +	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	81 (76)	76 (73)	89 (90)
National	77 (75)	74 (73)	87 (86)

2004 Level 5	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	29 (26)	32 (30)	47 (45)
National	27 (26)	31 (28)	43 (40)

10. These are a very good set of Key Stage 2 results at both level 4 and level 5 for Herefordshire.
11. David Miliband (Minister of State for School Standards) has written to the Director of Education asking him to pass on his congratulations to pupils and teachers "because the results for English and maths combined mean that the cumulative results achieved by children in Herefordshire are amongst the most improved this year".
12. **Key Stage 3: (14 year olds)** the national target standard for Key Stage 3 is level 5 and the spread of results normally range from level 3 to level 6. The provisional results for Key Stage 3 are listed below with the 2003 results in brackets.

2004 Level 5+	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	N/A	79 (77)	71 (75)
National	N/A	73 (70)	66 (68)

2004 Level 6+	English	Maths	Science
Herefordshire	N/A	58 (55)	39 (46)
National	N/A	52 (49)	34 (40)

13. These provisional results indicate an improved performance in Mathematics at level 5+ and Level 6, but a decline in science. This, by and large, mirrors the national picture though the local situation will be examined carefully, especially on science. Before the English results were suspended nationally, early indications suggested a rise in Herefordshire's results.
14. There is evidence that secondary school teachers are losing confidence in the Key Stage 3 testing programme because of persistent difficulties with the quality of

marking, particularly in English. This, in turn, creates problems for the validity of the value added data increasingly used to judge school and LEA performance.

15. **Key Stage 4: (16 year olds)** The results of pupils' performance at GCSE are provisional with some schools still waiting to receive the results of papers sent for remarking. The figures below are likely to be correct within a margin of error of + or – 1%. Last years 2003 figures are in brackets.

GCSE 2004	5+A+-C	5+A+-G
Herefordshire	58 (58)	92 (92)
National	N/A (53)	N/A (89)

16. No Herefordshire school fell below the 30% 5A+ - C floor target set by the government. The individual school range was from 33% to just under 90% of pupils achieving 5A+ - C. The 5A+ - C performance in 2004 remains very similar to last year but early indicators are that 5A+ - B levels have risen.

17. **Key Stage 5 (18 year olds)** Pupils in Herefordshire wishing to enter a 6<sup>th</sup> form can study at five different institutions. The figures below in brackets for 2003 broadly indicate the numbers of students enrolled (column A) and the numbers of pupils entered for advanced level GCE and VCE (column B).

	A	B
Lady Hawkins High School	(50)	(23)
John Masefield High School	(160)	(70)
The Minster College	(70)	(20)
John Kyrle	(162)	(70)
Hereford 6 <sup>th</sup> Form College	(1300)	(530)

18. The table below, using the revised method of calculating average point scores, is one measure for comparing relative performance.

Average Score per candidate in Year 13 attempting 2 or more A/AS Levels		
	2003	2004
Lady Hawkins	261	228
John Masefield	226	244
Minster College	209	174
John Kyrle	185	250
6 <sup>th</sup> Form College	345	364

19. Caution needs to be exercised to avoid reading too much into these scores, particularly where the numbers and prior attainments of pupils vary so much between providers. All these institutions are regularly inspected by Ofsted including Sixth Form provision. Last year, both Lady Hawkins and John Kyrle (for example) received good inspection reports.

20. In 2004 Herefordshire 6<sup>th</sup> Form College was again one of the highest performing colleges in the County and both John Kyrle and John Masefield High Schools results

improved. There is strong evidence to suggest that the overall provision for Herefordshire pupils wishing to study at 'A' level is good. As always, there were many pupils whose results were truly remarkable.

## RECOMMENDATION

**That the Committee comment on the results achieved in 2004, and identify any matters requiring particular attention.**

### Background Papers

- None identified.