

A Level Outcomes

August 2017

Changes to GCE Courses and Examinations

GCE A levels have been reformed. The main features of these new qualifications are that assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills. A levels are assessed at the end of the two year course. The courses are no longer divided into modules and there are no external examinations in January. AS and A levels have been decoupled. This means that AS results will no longer count towards an A level, in the way they have done previously.

The content for the new A levels has been reviewed and updated. Universities played a greater role in this for the new qualifications than they did previously. The content is greater as well as more difficult. Many subjects such as biology, geography, physics and chemistry require students to have a good understanding of A level mathematical concepts.

The 'reformed A level' courses have been phased in over three academic years. The new GCE specifications and examinations have caused some problems. Teachers and students were unable to access exemplar material early enough to impact positively in the examinations.

GCE 2016 Outcomes

When compared to statistical neighbours Wirral ranked fourth on the following measures:-

Average points per A level entry

Average points per academic entry

When compared to statistical neighbours Wirral ranked third for the grade and points achieved by students in their best 3 A levels.

With regard to the percentage of students achieving AAB or higher in at least two facilitating subject Wirral ranked second.

	Ave Points per A level Entry	Ave Points per Academic Entry	Ave Points per Applied General Entry	Ave Points per Tech Level Entry	Grade and Points student's best 3 A levels	% Achieving AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects
2016						
Wirral	31.41	31.55	37.06	29.69	B- 35.46	15.1
2017						
Wirral	33.81	33.74	40.02	31.73	B- 35.03	14.87

To date there is no comparative data with statistical neighbours for the provisional 2017 results. Initial results show that the average points per A level entry has

increased. The average points per academic entry, applied general entry and technical level entry have increased. The average point score for a student's best 3 A levels has decreased slightly though the average grade remains at B-.

	Average Point Score per entry (APS)	Best 3 A levels as a grade	% achieving 2 A levels	3 A*-A	AAB
All Wirral	35.3	B-	77%	11%	19.4%
National	34.75	C+	76.2%	10.7%	18.7%
Wirral Girls	33.13	C+	81.9%	11.1%	20.6%
National Girls	32.15	C+	77.1%	9.6%	18%
Wirral Boys	29.57	C	71.2%	10.8%	17.6%
National Boys	30.18	C	69.9%	12.1%	19.6%

Nationally the average point score (APS) per entry increased for A level, applied general and tech level students, compared to equivalent 2016. Nationally the APS per entry expressed as a grade for A level increased from C to C+.

The APS for Wirral was higher than the national average. Girls' APS was higher than the national average whereas the boys' APS was below. The Wirral average A level grade for the best 3 A level outcomes at B- is higher than the national average (C+). Interestingly both boys' and girls' grade is in line with the national average.

More Wirral students achieved two A levels than the national average. Both boys and girls achieved better than the national average.

The percentage of students achieving 3A*-A was higher than the national average. The percentage of Wirral girls achieving three A*-A was higher than the national average whereas the percentage of Wirral boys was lower than the national average.

The percentage of Wirral students achieving AAB was higher than the national average. The percentage of girls achieving AAB was above the national average whereas the percentage of Wirral boys was significantly lower.

The table below captures the data currently available so far.

School Name	Year	Average Points Score	Progress Score	Average Grade
<i>England</i>	2016	30.45	0	C
	2017			C+
Bebington	2016	26.17	0.12	C-
	2017	28.17		C-
Birkenhead High School Academy	2016	29.48	-0.03	C
	2017	32.19		C+
Birkenhead Sixth Form College	2016	29.72	0.25	C
	2017			
Calday	2016	33.52	-0.13	C+
	2017	33.7		C+
Hilbre	2016	22.94	-0.17	D+
	2017	23.84		D+
Pensby	2016	23.05	-0.37	D+
	2017	20.33		D
South Wirral	2016	21.45	-0.38	D
	2017	24.72		D+
St Anselms	2016	29.09	-0.06	C
	2017	35.65		B-
St John Plessington	2016	28.63	0.22	C
	2017	29.8		C
St Marys	2016	23.94	-0.27	D+
	2017	31.9		C+
The Kingsway Academy	2016	16.88	-0.75	D-
	2017			
The Mosslands School	2016	18.25	-0.63	D-
	2017	21.71		D+
The Oldershaw Academy	2016	17.99	-0.6	D-
	2017	21.85		D+
Upton Hall	2016	35.54	-0.01	B-
	2017	38.36		B
Weatherhead	2016	28.95	-0.04	C
	2017	31.53		C
West Kirby	2016	37.66	-0.19	B-
	2017	36.17		B-
Wirral Boys	2016	33.32	-0.15	C+
	2017	32.86		C+
Wirral Girls	2016	40.24	-0.01	B
	2017	43.35		B+

The amount of progress students make from their GCSE results (end of Key Stage 4) to their GCE outcomes (end of Key Stage 5) is now measured as a progress score. The progress scores for 2016 indicate that only two schools/education establishments had a progress score well above the national average (St. John Plessington Catholic College and Birkenhead Sixth Form College). Six schools had a progress measure close the national average of 0. Nine schools had progress measures below the national average.

Using the provisional data sent in by schools eight schools showed an increase in the average grade. St. Mary's Catholic College saw the most improvement, a whole grade from a D+ to a C+. The average grade for seven schools remained the same.