

**EMBARGOED: Not for publication or broadcast before 00:01 on Saturday 29 August 2009**

## Purposeful learning pays off for pupils

SQA exam results for pupils at Scotland’s independent schools show consistently good pass rates at all levels, with an increase across the board in the proportion of awards at the top grade. Independent school candidates gave a strong performance at Higher and Advanced Higher, where around two in five pupils were awarded a grade A.

### 2009 All Awards

	SCIS entries as a % of all entries	Entries – SCIS schools	A-C <sup>1</sup> Pass rate SCIS schools %	% of entries awarded A grades <sup>2</sup> at SCIS schools %			
Standard Grade	2.6	9,393	99.8	57.0			
Intermediate 2	8.3	10,141	93.6	67.3			
Highers	8.2	13,687	88.2	45.4			
Advanced Highers	16.4	3,216	87.3	39.3			
	SCIS Schools	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
S6 Advanced Highers	% A-C pass rate	87%	88%	87%	87%	88%	88%
	% A passes	39%	38%	37%	40%	41%	37%
S5 Highers	% A-C pass rate	91%	90%	90%	90%	91%	90%
	% A passes	50%	49%	47%	49%	49%	49%

Source: SCIS analysis of SQA data<sup>3</sup>

“The independent sector has started the school year in good heart, boosted by consistently strong exam results which are a testament to the commitment and hard work of pupils and teachers. The outcome for pupils is an entry to employment, further or higher education, with an opportunity to pursue their chosen careers” said Judith Sischy, Director of SCIS. “Our teachers promote an ethos of learning and of all round achievement, which equips the pupils with a portfolio of skills for life and work beyond school”.

The table of pre-appeal examination results, produced by SCIS, reflects the wide choice of subjects and the diversity of qualifications on offer at Scotland’s independent schools. A number of schools offer vocational, GCSE, A level or International Baccalaureate exams.

Ends

For further information please contact Judith Sischy or Sarah Randell on 0131 220 2106.

<sup>1</sup> 1-6 pass rate for Standard Grade.

<sup>2</sup> Grade 1 at Standard Grade.

<sup>3</sup> This is a SCIS analysis of data supplied by the SQA. Data reported in this analysis refer to all SQA examination entries from Scottish schools, both mainstream and special.