

Embargoed until 00.01 Saturday 10 September

Issued Wednesday 7 September

SCIS exam results 2016 – PRESS RELEASE

Key Findings

- This year's results from SCIS schools show that 68% of National 5 entries were awarded an A grade (36.5% nationally)
- 92.3% of candidates in a SCIS school sitting Higher achieved a pass of which 55.3% achieved A grade
- 93% of Advanced Higher entries from a SCIS school achieved a pass of which 53.3% gained an A grade

SCIS exam candidates have achieved top grades in this year's exam results with 1 in 6 candidates at a SCIS School achieving three or more A grades at Higher.

John Edward, Director, Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) said:

'Scotland can be very proud of the attainment of these pupils and schools – the hard work of young, people, families and teachers. To some, high attainment in the independent sector will come as little surprise. But it is just part of the rounded individual experience on offer – matched by extensive extra-curricular opportunities in sport, music and the arts; as well as personalised guidance on vocational and other life choices.'

*"I am delighted with our excellent exam results this year which are testament to the continued hard work of our teachers. In a time of change in education they have shown professionalism and commitment in order to ensure that our pupils realise their full potential. The sector continues to perform at a consistently high level, which is evidence of the fact that independent schools add value to our pupil's educational attainment. Our pupils are to be congratulated on their achievements, which are the fruits of their efforts and commitment."***Dr Laura Murphy, Headteacher, Fernhill School**

SCIS schools include a wide diversity of schools, many selective some non-selective and 19 additional support needs schools. As independent schools they have the freedom to choose the best curriculum and qualifications for their children and young people.

Other Qualifications

SCIS schools offer their pupils a wide and diverse choice of qualifications. The majority of our schools offer Scottish Qualification Authority exams, however over a third offer alternative exams including: A Levels and International Baccalaureate.

A Levels

The Independent Schools Council (ISC) gathers data about A-Level, GCSE and iGCSE's exam results for independent schools in Scotland. The exam result summary for 2016 can be found here. <http://www.isc.co.uk/research/exam-results/>

Key findings included:

- One in fifteen independent schools candidates achieved 3 A* at A Level
- Half of ISC entries achieved A* or A grades at A Level – twice the national average

International Baccalaureate Diploma

Candidates of the International Baccalaureate Diploma at SCIS schools consistently perform well-ahead of the world average of **30** points.

'The 2016 IB Diploma results were St Leonards best ever with 85% of Higher Level grades being equivalent to A/A/B grades at A level. This was a great way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the introduction of the IB Diploma Programme (IBDP) at St Leonards, the only school in Scotland with an all-IBDP Sixth Form. We are also celebrating the introduction of the Primary version of the IB in St Leonards Junior School and, as a result the whole school is fizzing with innovation and dynamism from top to bottom – a real 21st century education.'*

Dr Michael Carslaw, Headmaster of St Leonards.

Note to editors:

- The Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) is an educational charity representing over 70 member schools, which educate more than 30,000 children of mixed abilities and diverse backgrounds. SCIS promotes choice, diversity and excellence in Scottish education.
- Full results: A break-down of pre marking review results are available online at <http://www.scis.org.uk/facts-and-figures/exam-results/> . A post review database of results will be published in December

- In 2015/16 4.3% of pupils in Scotland attend an independent school. The independent school sector is equivalent in size to the 8th largest local authority in Scotland.
- Former pupils of independent schools accounted for 22% of Scottish Olympians with almost half returning home with a medal.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/scotland/37148223>
- SQA Exam Results 2016 <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/64717.html>
- For more information please visit the SCIS website: www.scis.org.uk