

Performance at Key Stage 5

8.1 At A*-E, considered the 'pass rate', the proportion of subject entries was 98.2%. The proportion of students achieving the level 3 threshold was 98.0%. Both figures show small increases to those achieved in 2015.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	A*/E	A*/E	A*/E	A*/E	A*/E	A*/E
Cardiff	97.6%	98.6%	98%	98%	98.1%	98.2%
Wales	97.2%	97.6%	97.6%	97.5%	97.3%	97.3%

8.2 The proportion of pupils achieving A*-C also increased by 1.9 ppt to 80.3%.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	A*/C	A*/C	A*/C	A*/C	A*/C	A*/C
Cardiff	78.6%	80.2%	77.7%	77.1%	78.4%	80.3%
Wales	74.1%	75%	75.2%	75.2%	74.3%	73.8%

8.3 As a result of the Welsh Baccalaureate being graded A*- E in 2016, (whereas it was included as an A grade if successfully completed in 2015), the proportion of subject entries at A* or A shows a decrease of 2.9 ppt on the figure for 2015. This performance indicator is significantly above the Welsh average, the same as in previous years.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	A*/A	A*/A	A*/A	A*/A	A*/A	A*/A
Cardiff	29.8%	29.5%	29.0%	29.7%	31.0%	28.1%
Wales	23.9%	23.6%	22.9%	23.2%	23.0%	23.1%

8.4 The results achieved at Key Stage 5 continue to compare positively with the national figures for both Wales and England. The proportion of subject entries at A* or A was 22.7% in Wales and 25.8% across England. At A*-C the corresponding national figures were 73.8% and 77.4% respectively. The national pass rate in Wales was 97.3% whereas in England it was 98.9%.

8.5 The overall trend in performance at the level 3 threshold and average wider points score is shown in the table below.

A Level Results 2016

YEAR 13	RESULTS					Wales
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
Entering a volume equivalent to 2 A level who achieved the Level 3 threshold	97%	96.0%	97.0%	96.9%	97.6%	98%
Average wider points score for pupils aged 17	845	865.5	833	866	870	823.2

Performance in Cardiff Sixth Forms

- 8.6 Cardiff uses the Alps tools for identifying the added value schools bring to student achievements. This is the third full year of use and strongly welcomed by schools. It is now also in use across the Central South Consortium. It compares the performance of approximately 240,000 students taking over 685,000 A levels.
- 8.7 Using this information, it has been found that:
- There has been a reduction in the proportion of A level teaching in Cardiff judged to be excellent or outstanding from just over one third in 2015 to just over a quarter in 2016;
 - The proportion of A level teaching judged to be less than satisfactory has reduced to less than one quarter in 2016;
 - 2 schools have sustained excellent overall performance from 2013 to 2016;
 - A further 3 schools have sustained good performance;
 - 6 schools can be considered satisfactory in their overall performance; and
 - 1 school continues to be in the lowest grades of performance
- 8.8 The value-added performance of subjects continues to show significant variation both within and across schools. Cardiff has a number of high performing subjects across a range of centres that are placed in the top 25% of performance and in some cases in the top 10%.
- 8.9 History and Art & Design are consistently the strongest performing subjects studied in nearly all centres across Cardiff. In contrast Biology and Psychology are the weakest performing subjects.
- 8.10 Some popular subjects such as Chemistry, Mathematics and French are high performing in some centres but poor performing in others.
- 8.11 Greater consistency across schools and an increase in the proportion of higher grades of performance is an ongoing challenge. The Alps data will continue to be used as evidence of quality of delivery in the move towards a commissioning model for post 16 provision across the city.