

Standards-Not-Tiers Press Release

27th February 2008

Response to David Pugh's Comments On Isle of Wight's Minimum GCSE Target Results

David Pugh stated on Isle of Wight Radio today (News 06:30) that he finds little to be happy about in the fact that Isle of Wight High Schools are collectively one of only 5 Authorities to have no schools achieving less than 39% in the 2007 GCSE A*-C including English and Maths. Standards Not Tiers believes that Cllr Pugh has misunderstood the significance of this data.

Whilst we acknowledge that our average score is itself by no means excellent, the range of scores is excellent and particularly so when we look at the actual make up of the other authorities that we are compared with; in particular the sizes of the schools involved, their funding status and in many cases quasi or actual selection processes that they employ.

All Isle of Wight schools included in the data are non selective community comprehensive schools many drawing pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds and less well off families.

Unlike many of the comparator authorities we do not have a beacon school that siphons off the best students, which whilst driving up the overall average for the county, results in some schools falling well below the governments 30% target. In this respect the Isle of Wight's attainment is to be commended. This is particularly so when one considers the appallingly difficult political situation with regard to reorganisation over the last 5 years.

We regard this as an important feature of our truly comprehensive and non selective system on the Isle of Wight and it places us in a unique position that needs to be built upon. Parents should be extremely concerned at any plans to increase the size of our high schools as the data indicates that this is a major contributor to under performance at GCSE. The Local Authorities current plans for options 2 and 3 will result in secondary schools that are almost twice the size of most mainland secondary schools and far bigger than most of those that have achieved the Governments 30% consistency target at GCSE.

We have extracted the data for every school in each of the local authorities that are in the top ten for the target.

Ends.

For further information editors should contact Chris Welsford, Chairman - Standards-Not-Tiers
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The Top Ten Local Authorities that have all their schools over the Government's 30% target in 2007

Local Authority	School	Type	Number Eligible	5 GCSEs A*-C Including Maths and English			
			To Take GCSE	School	LA Average	Eng Average	
Silly Islands	The Five Islands School	Voluntary Controlled Comp	17	65%	65.0%	46.7%	
Rutland	Casterton Business and Enterprise College	Foundation	164	59%	58.0%	46.7%	
	Uppingham Community College	Maintained Comp	177	60%	58.0%	46.7%	
	Vale of Catmose College	Maintained Comp	138	54%	58.0%	46.7%	
Kensington & Chelsea	The Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School	Voluntary Aided Comp	117	93%	56.6%	46.7%	
	Holland Park School	Community Comp	230	52%	56.6%	46.7%	
	Saint Thomas More Language College	Voluntary Aided Comp	128	49%	56.6%	46.7%	
	Sion-Manning RC Girls School	Voluntary Aided Comp Girls	112	43%	56.6%	46.7%	
Isle of Wight	Carisbrooke High School	Community Comp	371	45%	42.1%	46.7%	
	Cowes High School	Community Comp	295	42%	42.1%	46.7%	
	Medina High School	Community Comp	248	44%	42.1%	46.7%	
	Ryde High School	Community Comp	300	39%	42.1%	46.7%	
	Sandown High School	Community Comp	375	42%	42.1%	46.7%	
Luton	Ashcroft High School	Foundation	227	37%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Cardinal Newman Catholic School (Science College)	Voluntary Aided Comp	240	60%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Challney High School for Boys and Community College	Community Comp	150	50%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Challney High School for Girls	Community Comp	182	37%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Denbigh High School	Community Comp	213	43%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Icknield High School	Foundation	278	53%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Lea Manor High School	Foundation	226	40%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Lealands High School	Community Comp	197	43%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Putteridge High School	Community Comp	234	42%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Stopsley High School	Foundation	193	41%	40.70%	46.7%	
	Redbridge	Beal High School	Community Comp	238	69%	61.50%	46.7%
		Canon Palmer Catholic School	Voluntary Aided Comp	188	58%	61.50%	46.7%
		Caterham High School	Community Comp	175	51%	61.50%	46.7%
The Chadwell Heath Foundation School		Foundation	188	78%	61.50%	46.7%	
Hainault Forest High School		Community Comp	165	37%	61.50%	46.7%	
Ilford County High School (SEL)		Community Selective	118	99%	61.50%	46.7%	
Ilford Ursuline High School		Voluntary Aided	90	76%	61.50%	46.7%	
King Solomon High School		Voluntary Aided	146	49%	61.50%	46.7%	
Loxford School of Science and Technology		Community Comp	228	52%	61.50%	46.7%	
Mayfield School		Foundation	242	41%	61.50%	46.7%	
Oaks Park High School		Community Comp	241	52%	61.50%	46.7%	
Seven Kings High School		Community Comp	207	71%	61.50%	46.7%	
Trinity Catholic High School		Voluntary Aided	235	83%	61.50%	46.7%	
Valentines High School		Community Comp	180	65%	61.50%	46.7%	
Wanstead High School		Community Comp	234	57%	61.50%	46.7%	
Woodbridge High School		Community Comp	236	53%	61.50%	46.7%	
Woodford County High School (SEL)	Community Selective	120	100%	61.50%	46.7%		
Hammersmith & Fulham	Burlington Danes Academy	Academy Comp	163	36%	57.90%	46.7%	
	Fullham Cross Girls School and Language College	Community Comp Girls	96	45%	57.90%	46.7%	
	Henry Compton Secondary School	Community Comp Boys	94	38%	57.90%	46.7%	
	Hurlingham and Chelsea Secondary School	Community Comp	132	42%	57.90%	46.7%	
	Lady Margaret School	Voluntary Aided	88	83%	57.90%	46.7%	
	The London Oratory School	Voluntary Aided Boys 7-18	192	90%	57.90%	46.7%	
	Phoenix High School	Community Comp Boys	138	43%	57.90%	46.7%	
	Sacred Heart High School	Voluntary Aided Girls	145	88%	57.90%	46.7%	
Windsor & Maidenhead	Altwood CoE Secondary School	Voluntary Controlled Comp	133	39%	54.90%	46.7%	
	Charters School	Community Comp	238	67%	54.90%	46.7%	
	Churchmead Church of England (VA) School	Voluntary Aided	128	35%	54.90%	46.7%	
	Cox Green School	Community Comp	163	56%	54.90%	46.7%	
	Desborough School	Community Comp	180	52%	54.90%	46.7%	
	Furze Platt Senior School	Community Comp	183	50%	54.90%	46.7%	
	Newlands Girls' School	Community Comp Girls	179	73%	54.90%	46.7%	
	The Windsor Boys' School	Community Comp Boys	236	57%	54.90%	46.7%	
	Windsor Girls' School	Community Comp Girls	172	55%	54.90%	46.7%	
Wokingham	The Bulmershe School	Community Comp	220	45%	57.60%	46.7%	
	The Emmbrook School	Community Comp	107	53%	57.60%	46.7%	
	Forest School	Community Comp Boys	188	61%	57.60%	46.7%	
	The Holt School	Community Comp Girls	209	68%	57.60%	46.7%	
	Maiden Erlegh School	Community Comp	248	70%	57.60%	46.7%	
	The Piggott School	Voluntary Controlled Comp	177	67%	57.60%	46.7%	
	Ryeish Green School	Community Comp	146	34%	57.60%	46.7%	
	St Crispin's School	Community Comp	154	65%	57.60%	46.7%	
	Waingels College	Community Comp	237	57%	57.60%	46.7%	
Stockport	Bramhall High School	Community Comp	316	67%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Cheadle Hulme High School	Community Comp	268	55%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Harrytown Catholic High School	Voluntary Aided	151	51%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Hazel Grove High School	Community Comp	286	56%	50.50%	46.7%	
	The Kingsway School	Community Comp	312	60%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Marple Hall School - A Specialist Language College	Community Comp	339	54%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Offerton High School	Community Comp	204	33%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Priestnall School	Community Comp	300	63%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Reddish Vale Technology College	Community Comp	283	36%	50.50%	46.7%	
	St Anne's Roman Catholic High School, Stockport	Voluntary Aided Comp	152	46%	50.50%	46.7%	
	St James' Catholic High School (Humanities College)	Voluntary Aided Comp	150	59%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Stockport School	Voluntary Aided Comp	227	52%	50.50%	46.7%	
	Werneth School	Voluntary Aided Comp	285	41%	50.50%	46.7%	

Data source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/league_tables/default.stm