

SDR 80/2013

29 May 2013

## Schools in Wales: Examination Performance 2012

Schools in Wales: Examination Performance 2012 is published today. This provides a detailed analysis of last year's Foundation Phase Outcomes, Key Stage 2 and 3 assessments and GCSE/A level results. Much of the information has already been published in previous statistical volumes. This release brings the information together as a comprehensive summary of examination performance in Wales.

The hard copy of the publication is no longer produced, however all data continues to be available as EXCEL spreadsheets on our website. This Statistical First Release presents a selection of that information.

### End of Foundation Phase Outcomes and Key Stages 2 and 3

- The percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level in 2012 was higher than in 2011 for Key Stages 2 and 3, in all subjects.
- This is the first year in which the Foundation Phase has fully replaced Key Stage 1. As a result, Foundation Phase Outcomes are only available for 2012 and year-on-year comparisons are not available.

### GCSE and Vocational Equivalent

- 51 per cent of pupils aged 15 achieved the level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A\*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics in 2012, 1 percentage point higher than in 2011. 56 per cent of girls and 47 per cent of boys achieved this level;
- 57 per cent of entries in GCSE Mathematics achieved grade A\*-C. For English Language the percentage was 62 per cent and for Welsh (First Language) it was 72 per cent.

### A Level and Vocational Equivalent

- 11,538 17-year-old pupils entered a volume equivalent to 2 A levels in 2012, an increase of 26 compared with 2011.
- The most popular subject at A level in 2012 was Mathematics, with 3,228 entries.

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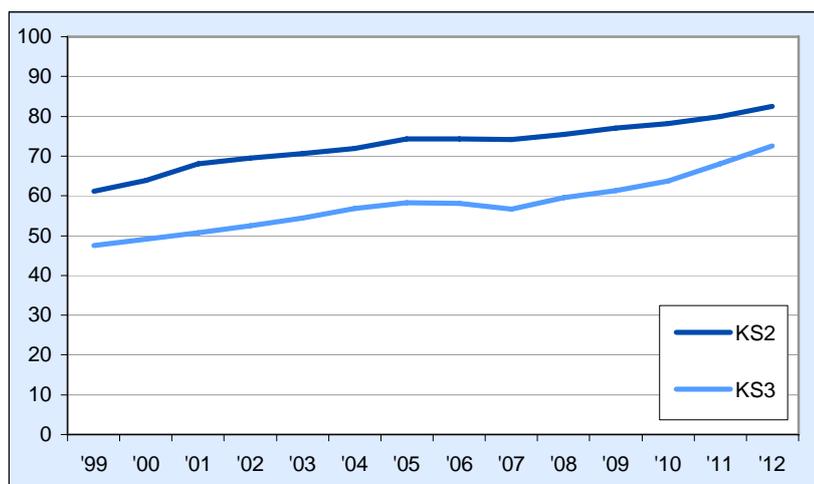
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**Chart 1: Percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator at each Key Stage 2 and 3, 1999-2012**



The Core Subject Indicator (CSI) represents the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level or above in English or Welsh (first language), mathematics and science in combination.

There has been a steady increase in the percentage of pupils achieving the CSI since 1999 at all key stages.



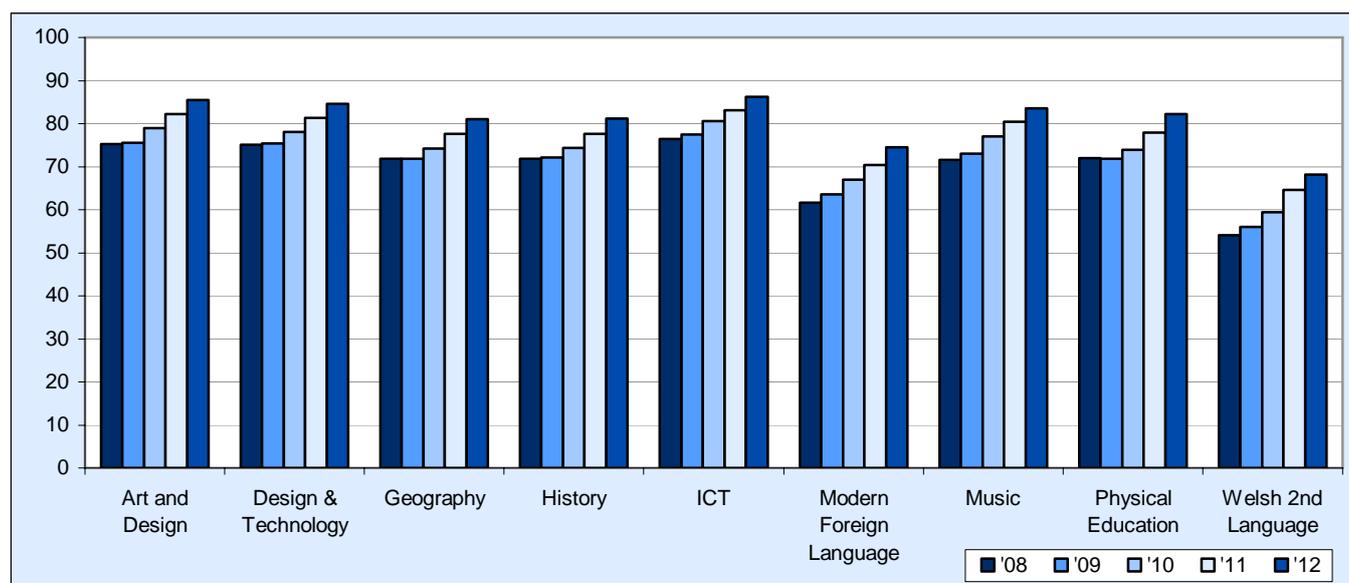
**Table 1: Key Stages 2 and 3 summary**

Percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level

|                                     | Key Stage 2 (L4+) |             |                        | Key Stage 3 (L5+) |             |                        |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
|                                     | 2011              | 2012        | % point change 2011/12 | 2011              | 2012        | % point change 2011/12 |
| English                             | 83.4              | 85.2        | 1.8                    | 76.0              | 79.3        | 3.3                    |
| Welsh                               | 82.0              | 84.0        | 2.0                    | 81.3              | 84.2        | 2.9                    |
| Mathematics                         | 84.9              | 86.8        | 1.9                    | 77.9              | 81.1        | 3.2                    |
| Science                             | 87.1              | 88.5        | 1.4                    | 80.3              | 83.6        | 3.3                    |
| <b>Core Subject Indicator</b>       | <b>80.0</b>       | <b>82.6</b> | <b>2.6</b>             | <b>68.0</b>       | <b>72.5</b> | <b>4.5</b>             |
| Reading, Writing and Mathematics    | 73.9              | 76.6        | 2.7                    | 63.5              | 67.3        | 3.8                    |
| Reading, Writing, Maths and Science | 73.7              | 76.4        | 2.7                    | 61.8              | 66.0        | 4.2                    |



**Chart 2: Key Stage 3 non-core teacher assessment results, 2008–2012**



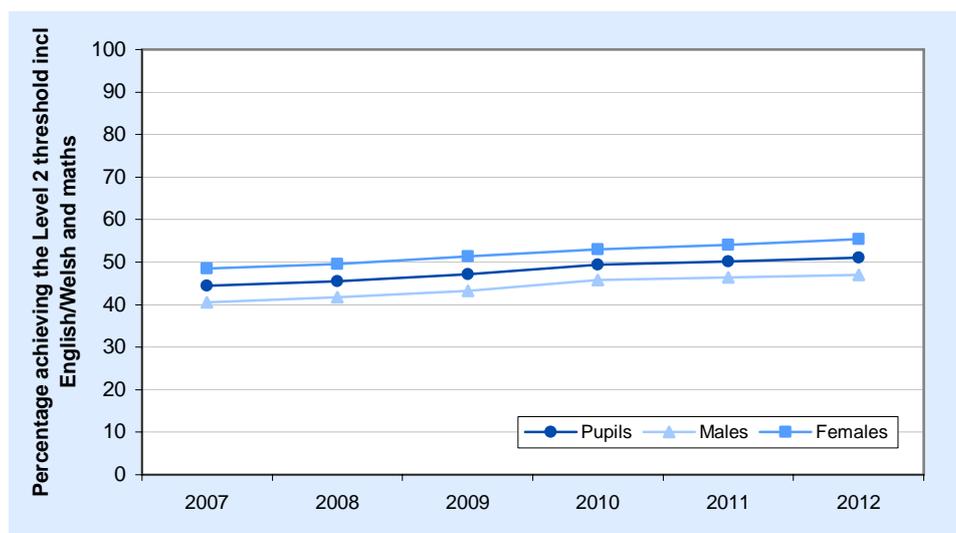
On average, the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in non-core subjects in 2012 was 3.5 percentage points higher than 2011, the same average was observed between 2011 and 2010. Between 2009 and 2010, the average increase was 2.9 percentage points, while it was only 0.8 percentage points between 2008 and 2009.

**Table 2: Key Stage 3 non-core teacher assessment results by gender, 2008–2012**

|                | Art and Design | Design and Technology | Geography   | History     | ICT         | Modern Foreign Language | Music       | Physical Education | Welsh 2nd Language |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Boys:</b>   |                |                       |             |             |             |                         |             |                    |                    |
| 2008           | 66.3           | 68.0                  | 66.9        | 65.7        | 71.4        | 53.0                    | 63.8        | 72.1               | 44.3               |
| 2009           | 66.3           | 68.4                  | 67.1        | 66.3        | 72.5        | 55.0                    | 65.8        | 72.1               | 46.4               |
| 2010           | 70.3           | 70.7                  | 69.1        | 68.8        | 75.8        | 58.6                    | 70.3        | 73.4               | 50.1               |
| 2011           | 74.2           | 74.6                  | 72.8        | 72.4        | 78.4        | 62.4                    | 74.7        | 77.4               | 55.2               |
| <b>2012</b>    | <b>78.4</b>    | <b>78.9</b>           | <b>76.1</b> | <b>75.7</b> | <b>81.9</b> | <b>66.7</b>             | <b>78.0</b> | <b>82.1</b>        | <b>58.9</b>        |
| <b>Girls:</b>  |                |                       |             |             |             |                         |             |                    |                    |
| 2008           | 84.6           | 82.4                  | 77.1        | 78.1        | 81.6        | 70.4                    | 79.3        | 71.8               | 64.3               |
| 2009           | 85.1           | 82.8                  | 76.9        | 78.1        | 82.7        | 72.6                    | 80.7        | 71.7               | 66.1               |
| 2010           | 88.0           | 86.0                  | 79.7        | 80.3        | 85.7        | 75.8                    | 84.0        | 74.3               | 69.3               |
| 2011           | 90.7           | 88.5                  | 82.9        | 83.4        | 88.1        | 78.9                    | 86.4        | 78.6               | 74.9               |
| <b>2012</b>    | <b>93.0</b>    | <b>90.6</b>           | <b>86.3</b> | <b>86.9</b> | <b>90.8</b> | <b>82.7</b>             | <b>89.5</b> | <b>82.3</b>        | <b>78.4</b>        |
| <b>Pupils:</b> |                |                       |             |             |             |                         |             |                    |                    |
| 2008           | 75.3           | 75.1                  | 71.9        | 71.8        | 76.4        | 61.6                    | 71.5        | 72.0               | 54.1               |
| 2009           | 75.5           | 75.4                  | 71.9        | 72.1        | 77.5        | 63.6                    | 73.1        | 71.9               | 56.0               |
| 2010           | 78.9           | 78.1                  | 74.2        | 74.4        | 80.6        | 67.0                    | 77.0        | 73.9               | 59.4               |
| 2011           | 82.2           | 81.3                  | 77.7        | 77.7        | 83.1        | 70.4                    | 80.4        | 78.0               | 64.6               |
| <b>2012</b>    | <b>85.5</b>    | <b>84.6</b>           | <b>81.0</b> | <b>81.2</b> | <b>86.2</b> | <b>74.5</b>             | <b>83.6</b> | <b>82.2</b>        | <b>68.2</b>        |



**Chart 3: Percentage of pupils aged 15 who achieved the Level 2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and mathematics (a)**



The percentage of pupils achieving the Level 2 threshold including English or Welsh first language and mathematics has increased every year since 2007. The gender gap has remained at around 8 percentage points throughout this time.



**Table 3: Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)**

|             | Percentage of pupils aged 15 who... |                                |                                |   |   |                                      |   |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|
|             | Number of pupils aged 15            | achieved the Level 1 threshold | achieved the Level 2 threshold | achieved the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A*-C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics (e) | achieved the Core Subject Indicator (c) | Average wider points score per pupil | Average capped (d) wider points score per pupil |
| 2001/02     | 37,116                              | 84.8                           | 50.5                           | ..  | 36.9                                    | ..                                   | ..  |
| 2002/03     | 37,993                              | 85.1                           | 51.1                           | ..  | 37.5                                    | ..                                   | ..  |
| 2003/04     | 39,212                              | 85.3                           | 51.4                           | ..  | 37.7                                    | 324.7                                | ..  |
| 2004/05     | 38,495                              | 85.2                           | 52.2                           | ..  | 38.4                                    | 327.7                                | ..  |
| 2005/06     | 38,859                              | 86.0                           | 53.8                           | ..  | 39.7                                    | 335.4                                | ..  |
| 2006/07     | 39,576                              | 86.0                           | 55.0                           | 44.4  | 40.0                                    | 343.9                                | ..  |
| 2007/08     | 39,027                              | 86.8                           | 58.0                           | 45.6  | 44.4                                    | 356.0                                | ..  |
| 2008/09     | 37,607                              | 88.2                           | 60.7                           | 47.2  | 46.0                                    | 378.9                                | ..  |
| 2009/10     | 37,072                              | 89.7                           | 63.8                           | 49.4  | 48.0                                    | 394.3                                | 305.1   |
| 2010/11     | 36,088                              | 90.3                           | 67.3                           | 50.1  | 48.7                                    | 422.9                                | 311.6   |
| 2011/12 (r) | 35,404                              | 91.8                           | 72.6                           | 51.1  | 48.9                                    | 465.0                                | 323.5   |
| 2011/12     |                                     |                                |                                |   |   |                                      |   |
| Males       | 18,181                              | 89.8                           | 67.8                           | 46.9  | 45.1                                    | 438.8                                | 309.9   |
| Females     | 17,223                              | 93.8                           | 77.6                           | 55.5  | 52.8                                    | 492.6                                | 338.0   |

- (a) Up to 2005/06, includes GCSEs, GCSE Short Course, GNVQs and NVQs. From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for pre-16 use in Wales.
- (b) Ages at the start of the academic year. Includes results for 15 year old pupils, in maintained schools and independent schools, achieved during the academic year and any examinations taken at earlier age.
- (c) Core Subject Indicator: achieved GCSE grade A\*-C in each of English or Welsh first language, mathematics and science.
- (d) Average capped wider point scores are calculated using the best 8 results.
- (e) Please see section 3.2 of the notes for more details



**Table 4: Pupils aged 17 at the start of the academic year (a) (b)**

|             | Number of pupils aged 17 entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels | Percentage of 17 year old pupils entering a volume equivalent to 2 A levels who achieved the Level 3 threshold | Number of pupils aged 17 | Average wider points score for pupils aged 17 |
|-------------|---|--|--------------------------|---|
| 2001/02     | 9,486   | 94.4   | 11,201                   | ..  |
| 2002/03     | 9,848   | 93.9   | 11,568                   | ..  |
| 2003/04     | 10,041  | 94.9   | 11,822                   | ..  |
| 2004/05     | 10,373  | 94.4   | 12,072                   | ..  |
| 2005/06     | 10,731  | 93.9   | 12,507                   | ..  |
| 2006/07     | 10,592  | 93.9   | 12,418                   | 618.5   |
| 2007/08     | 10,943  | 94.2   | 12,653                   | 630.9   |
| 2008/09     | 11,367  | 96.0   | 13,241                   | 687.7   |
| 2009/10     | 11,653  | 94.9   | 13,586                   | 747.9   |
| 2010/11     | 11,512  | 96.3   | 13,615                   | 798.9   |
| 2011/12 (r) | 11,538  | 96.9   | 13,632                   | 772.9   |
| 2011/12     |   |  |                          |   |
| Males       | 5,040   | 95.7   | 6,201                    | 724.8   |
| Females     | 6,498   | 97.8   | 7,431                    | 813.0   |

(a) Up to 2005/06, includes A levels, AS levels and Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education (AVCE). From 2006/07, includes all qualifications approved for use in Wales.

(b) Includes independent schools, but excludes further education institutions.



## Accessing the data electronically

The data behind the chart and tables in this release can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables). Please select "Education and Skills" and then "Schools and Teachers" in the catalogue of the following site:

[www.statswales.wales.gov.uk](http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk)



## Key Quality Information

For quality information relating to End of Foundation Phase Outcomes and Key Stages 2 and 3 please refer to the following Statistical Releases:

[End of Foundation Phase Outcomes and National Curriculum Teacher Assessment of Core Subjects at Key Stages 2 and 3](#)

[National Curriculum Teacher Assessments of the Non-core Subjects, 2012](#)

For quality information relating to GCSE and A level results please refer to the following Statistical Release:

[Examination Results, 2011/12](#)