



Department
for Education

Key stage 4 congratulatory letters

**Information for local authorities,
maintained schools, academies and free
schools**

January 2015

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Summary

Schools receiving congratulatory letters

This guide details the criteria agreed by the Department for Education for congratulatory letters sent to secondary schools based on 2015 key stage 4 results.

Expiry or review date

This information will next be reviewed before January 2017.

Who is this advice for?

This guidance is for:

- local authorities
- school leaders, school staff and governing bodies in all maintained schools, academies and free schools

Criteria for congratulatory letters

Congratulatory letters were sent by the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb MP, to secondary schools based on 2015 key stage 4 results, meeting the following criteria:

English Baccalaureate

The top non-selective state-funded schools in England showing the best results in the English Baccalaureate.

Attainment

The top non-selective state-funded schools in England showing the best results against the five or more A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent) including English and maths GCSEs measure.

Value Added

The top non-selective state-funded schools in England based on the key stage 2 to key stage 4 value added measure.

Improvement

The top non-selective state-funded schools in England where the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A* to C GCSEs (or equivalent), including English and maths GCSEs, showed most year on year improvement between 2012/13 and 2014/15. Schools must also have exceeded the national average attainment against the measure in 2015 for any pupil premium pupils at the school.

Progress 8

The top non-selective state-funded schools in England that achieved a score of +1 or more on the Progress 8 measure.

Schools that met more than one of the above criteria

A number of schools met more than one of the criteria above:

- 36 schools met both criteria (1) and (2)
- 7 schools met both criteria (1) and (3)
- 2 schools met criteria (1) and (4)
- 2 schools met criteria (1) and (5)
- 16 schools met criteria (1), (2) and (3)

- 3 schools met criteria (1), (2) and (4)
- 12 schools met both criteria (2) and (3)
- 7 schools met both criteria (2) and (4)
- 6 schools met criteria (3) and (4)
- 6 schools met criteria (2), (3) and (4)
- 2 schools met criteria (1), (2), (3) and (4)



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Reference: DFE-90018-2015



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