

Division(s):

EDUCATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 FEBRUARY 2014

PUPILS ENTERED FOR GCSE SCIENCE

Report by Sue Bainbridge, Schools and Learning Manager

Proportion of Pupils Entered For Science

1. The proportion of pupils in Oxfordshire that are entered for at least 2 Science GCSEs has remained constant at 77% since 2011. This is above the national average of 66%.
2. However within schools the proportion of pupils entered for science varies considerably. In 2013 this variation was between 7% of pupils entered for at least 2 science GCSEs at The Oxford Academy to 99% of pupils at Icknield.
3. Schools that have shown significant increases in the proportion of pupils entered for at least 2 science subjects over the last 3 years include Didcot Girls School (increased from 56% to 83%), King Alfred's Academy (increased from 68% to 80%) and Fitzharrys School (increased from 73% to 84%).
4. There have been significant decreases in the proportion of pupils entered for at least 2 science subjects at Oxford Academy (decreased from 65% to 7%) and Carterton Community College (decreased from 74% to 49%).

Proportion of Pupils Attaining GCSE Science

5. 70% of Oxfordshire pupils entered for science GCSEs achieved at least 2 A*-Cs in 2013, this has fluctuated slightly over recent years but has been significantly below the national average for the last 3 years (statistical significance as defined by Ofsted – Raiseonline).
6. Again there is wide variation between schools. In 2013 34% of entered pupils attained at least 2 A*-C GCSEs at Bicester Community College (where 93% of pupils were entered) to 95% of pupils entered at Wheatley Park (where only 57% of the cohort were entered).
7. Six schools have remained significantly below the national average for the last 3 years. These are Bicester Community College, John Mason, Larkmead, Oxford Spires, St Gregory the Great and The Oxford Academy. With the exception of The Oxford Academy these schools all enter at least 82% of pupils for science.
8. Three schools have been significantly above the national average for the last 3 years. These are Faringdon Community College, Gillotts School and The Cooper School.

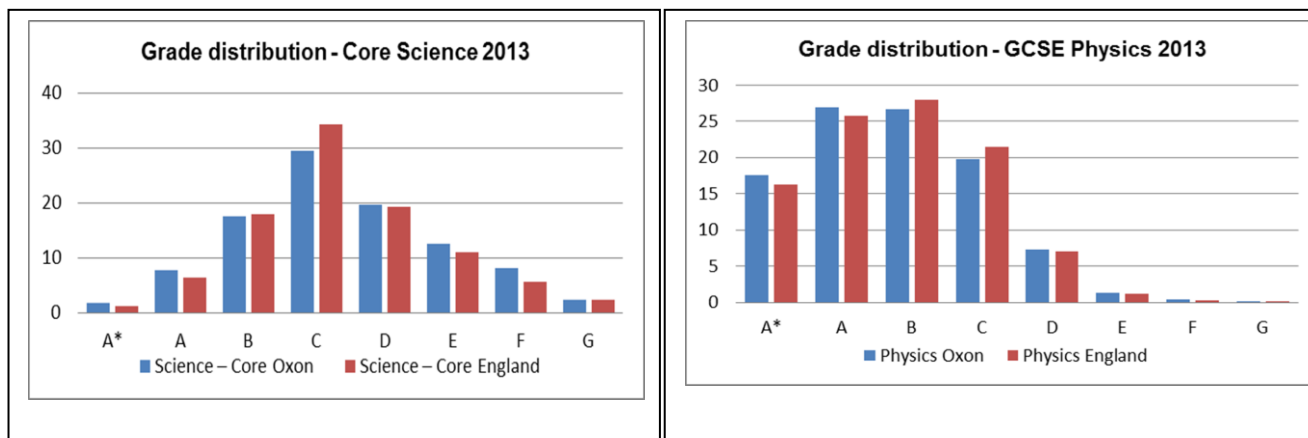
9. Please note that KS4 data is still unvalidated and may be subject to change.
10. Validated figures are due at the end of January 2014.

Grade distribution of science subjects

		Entries	Grade distribution (2013 provisional)							
			A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Science – Core	Oxon	3549	1.8	7.7	17.6	29.4	19.6	12.6	8.1	2.5
	England		1.2	6.5	18.0	34.3	19.4	11.1	5.7	2.4
Science – Additional	Oxon	2995	3.5	8.9	19.3	28.7	20.1	10.6	5.9	2.3
	England		2.5	9.0	20.5	33.1	20.3	8.5	3.7	1.4
Physics	Oxon	1877	17.6	26.9	26.7	19.7	7.3	1.3	0.4	0.1
	England		16.2	25.7	28.0	21.4	7.0	1.2	0.3	0.1
Chemistry	Oxon	1864	19.4	26.4	24.3	21.5	6.8	1.5	0.1	0.1
	England		17.1	26.0	27.1	20.6	7.2	1.4	0.3	0.1
Biology	Oxon	1872	14.8	28.9	28.0	19.6	7.1	1.4	0.2	0.1
	England		15.4	27.2	28.5	20.5	6.6	1.2	0.3	0.1

% may not total 100% as unclassified and absent pupils grades are not included in this table.

11. Generally Oxfordshire has greater proportions of pupils with A* or A grades than nationally. In particular Oxfordshire has notably higher proportions than nationally of A*s in Chemistry (19.4%) but less in Biology (14.8%)
12. Oxfordshire performs below the national average for B and C grades in most science subjects (the exception being C grades in Chemistry). In particular it is C grades where Oxfordshire falls furthest behind the national figures, with 29.4% attaining C grade in Core Science (compared to 34.3% nationally) and 28.7% attaining C grade in Additional Science (compared to 33.1% nationally).
13. Oxfordshire has greater proportions of pupils attaining D and E grades, particularly in Core and Additional Science.



RECOMMENDATION

14. **The Education and Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the contents of the report.**

FRANCES CRAVEN

Deputy Director for Education & Early Intervention

Background papers: Nil

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