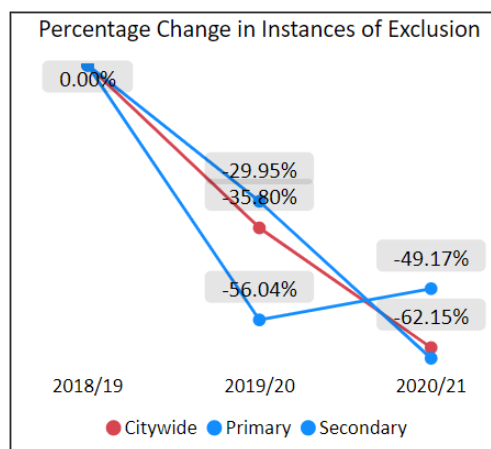
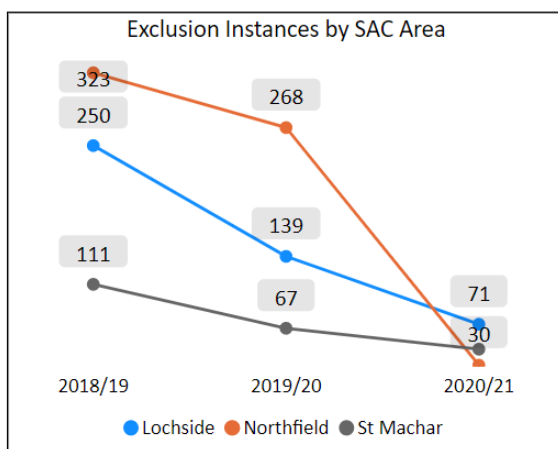


## Initial Education Data Analysis 2020/21

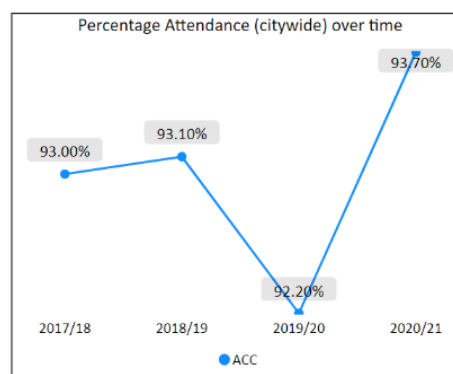
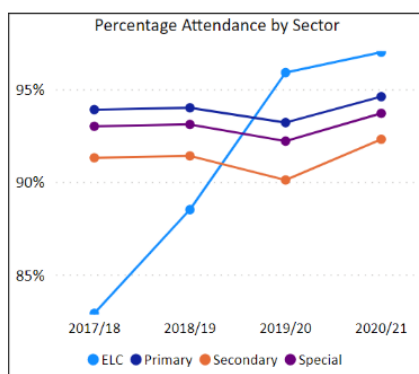
Considerable work has been undertaken to address vulnerabilities evident in senior phase attainment data. Updates are routinely reported through the Education Operational Delivery Committee (EODC) and used to inform Service Planning. A further report on progress is due to be presented to EODC in September 2021.

### Current data

There are many positive green shoots emerging from education data including a sharp decline in live exclusion data in both priority areas and city wide. This improvement is as a result of improved approaches to supporting health and wellbeing, improved access to mentoring programmes, enhanced quality assurance mechanisms and increased flexibility in our schools. Data is monitored on a weekly basis in order to continue to secure improvement.



The rise in live attendance data is also very positive with city wide attendance higher than in previous years.



Attainment data for 2021/22 is better than ever before and this is likely to be as a result of many factors including:

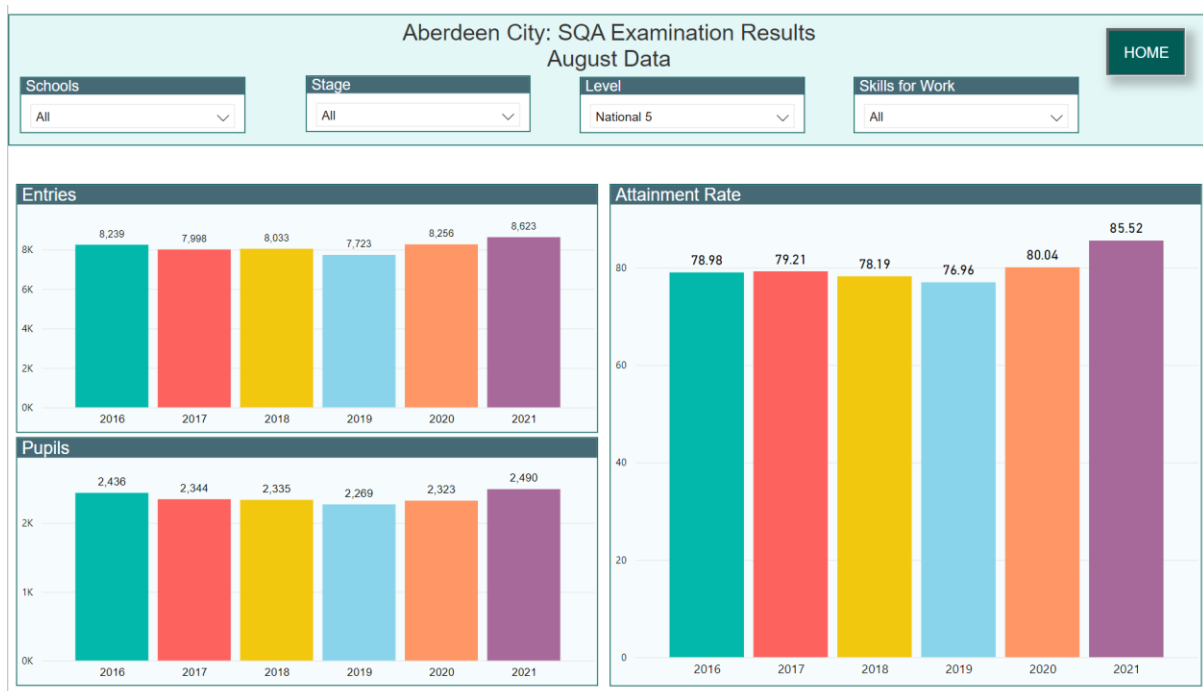
- an improved staffing situation;
- an improved knowledge of the standard;
- an improved use of data (including the use of Power BI as part of the Alternative Certification Model (ACM));
- improved teacher confidence due to greater collaboration across schools and subject specialists during the moderation process;

- changes to assessment methodology which will better suit many young people; and
- a clear and unwavering focus on the things that actually make a difference.

Aberdeen City Council responded positively to the challenges of the pandemic and attainment gains were anticipated. SQA and Education Scotland approved arrangements for the ACM and no challenge has been received since submission of the provisional grades to SQA.

Officers await publication of the final data sets required to undertake full analysis in October 2021.

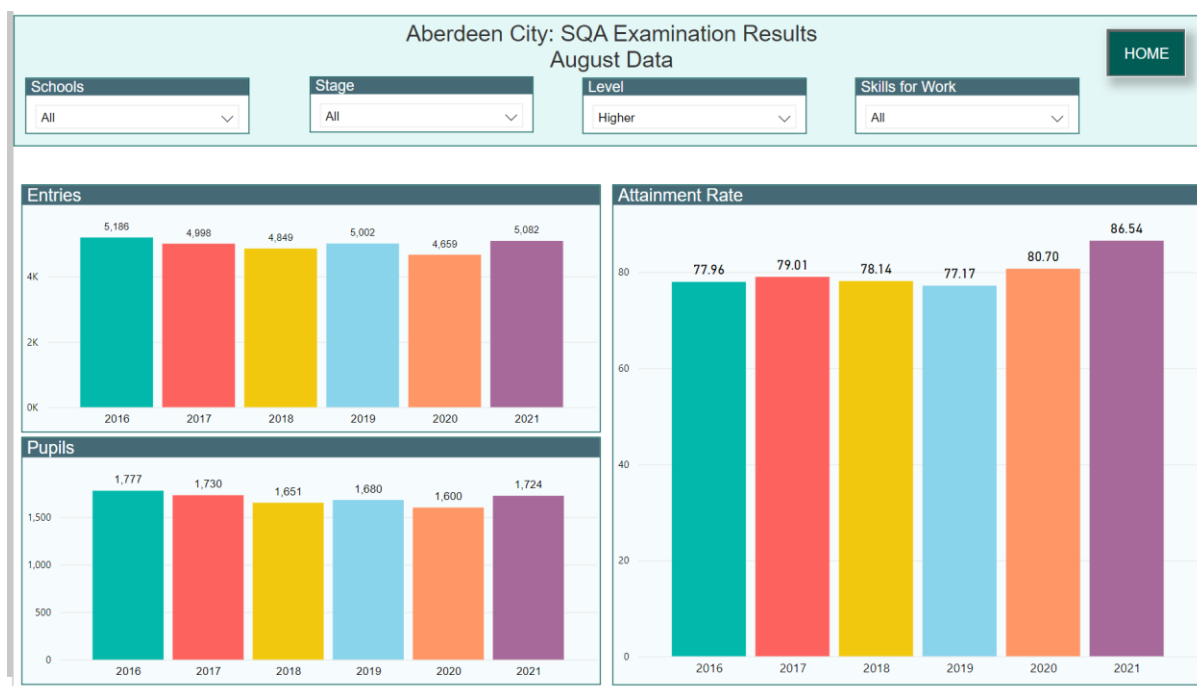
## Attainment at National 5 in 2020/21



85.52% of young people in the City entered for a National 5 gained an A-C pass, this is over 5% higher than last year. This is the highest attainment rate recorded at National 5 in the City and only 0.3% lower than the national pass rate of 85.8%.

More pupils than ever before were presented for a National 5 with presentations at a 6 year high. This increase is in part due to a rise in the pupil population but also evidences increased ambition for our young people.

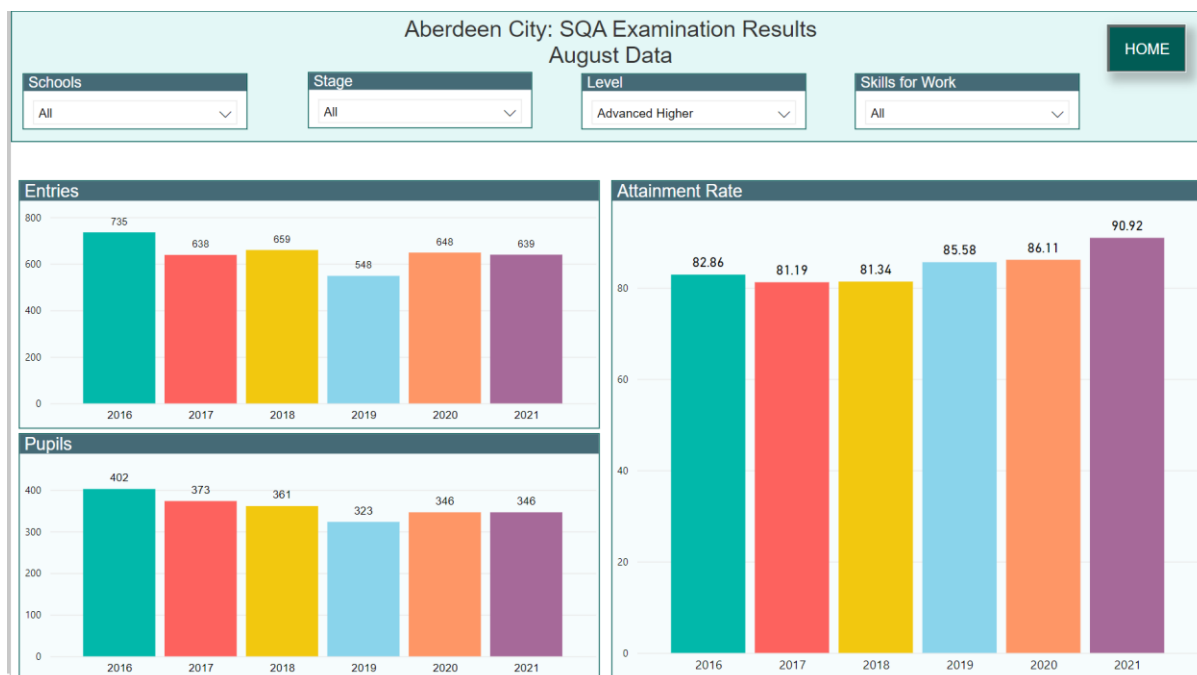
## Attainment at Higher in 2020/21



86.54% of entries presented for a Higher gained an A-C pass. This represents an improvement of over 6% on 2019/2020. 124 more young people were presented for a Higher than last year.

National attainment at Higher sits at 87.3% with the City pass rate within 1 percentage point of the national.

## Attainment at Advanced Higher in 2020/21



A similar rise is evident in Advanced Higher awards with nearly 91% of entries presented for an Advanced Higher gaining a pass, this is a 5% improvement on 2019/2020.

Aberdeen City results are slightly above the national pass rate (90.2%) at Advanced Higher.

## How does City attainment compare to the national picture?



A clear improvement trend is visible in attainment data. Aberdeen City compares well at the national level across National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. The 2021 attainment rate is line with national results and national improvement.

### Is the gap closing?

There is clear evidence that there is an increased number of children in lower quintiles being presented at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher. Attainment has also improved with evidence of the gap being closed. Additional analysis will be undertaken to assess the proportion of pupils in areas of deprivation where the Education domain is seen as a reason for deprivation. The national information will be available in October 2021 as the first part of the Insight data release.

### What about the quality of grades and number of entries?

There has been a steady increase in the number of presentations and an increase in the quality of grades achieved. This is evident across all stages (S4, S5 and S6) and is resulting in far fewer grade D and No Awards. The nationally reported rise in A grades is also evident in local data.

In some cases, there is evidence that young people prioritised the courses required to gain entry to Higher Education and sacrificed a course, this will be carefully monitored over session 21/22.

A full report will be taken through EODC when full analysis has been completed.