G

CURRICULUM AND QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Subject: External Exam Report (NQ & BTEC) for 2017/18	**Purpose:** **For Approval** ☐ **For Discussion** ☐ **For Information** ☒
Prepared by: Janet Robertson	**Date:** 9 October 2018

Purpose:

To inform the Committee on the results of the SQA and BTEC external exams for 2017/18.

Linked to Strategic Goal 2: Deliver successful outcomes for all our learners.

Executive Summary:

This is the third year for entries for the new Curriculum for Excellence Nationals at Levels 5 and Higher.

Comparisons are against national College average attainment rates as reported by the SQA.

National 5 Mathematics and Computing Science attainment is low, based on small numbers of learners, and below the College national average. National 5 Care was not offered in 2017/18.

The majority of Higher entries exceeded the national College average with 100% achievement in Higher English and Higher Childcare and Development. There has been a significant improvement in attainment in Higher Human Biology, however attainment in Higher Psychology and Higher Sociology is low.

There are only 2 BTEC exams to report on for 2017/18. These have been discontinued for 2018/19 and the SQA is now the awarding body.

Recommendation:

N/A

Previous Committee Approvals:

None.

For publication ☒	**For publication with redactions** ☐	**Not for publication** ☐

SQA Exam Results 2017/18

Introduction

This comparison of Borders College attainment rates relates to College average attainment rates as set out by the SQA.

A-C Pass Rates 2017/18 compared with national averages and 2016/17 results

Nat 5 Care was not offered in 2017/18. Attainment at A-C grade is low for both Nat 5 Computing and Mathematics. However, the numbers involved in both are small (11 and 9 entrants respectively) and the courses themselves changed from 2016/17 to 2017/18.

Four of the 6 Higher subjects achieved higher than the national average. Higher Sociology was a new course for the 2017/8 session. Attainment in Higher Human Biology has improved although numbers entering are fewer, and is now above the national average for Colleges, following a particular focus on this area during the session in both full-time and evening classes.

Action Points

The College must address the poor success rates for:

- National 5 Computing Science
- National 5 Mathematics
- Higher Sociology
- Higher Psychology

Grade Achievement 2017/18

	Mathematics Nat 5	Computing Science Nat 5
Grade A	11.1%	9.1%
Grade B	0.0%	9.1%
Grade C	22.2%	18.2%
Grade D	33.3%	27.3%
No award	33.3%	36.4%

Attainment rates for National 5 Mathematics have declined, with a higher proportion of students achieving no award in 2017/18 (3) and similarly achieving at Grade D (3).

Attainment rates for National 5 Computing Science whilst below the national average for Colleges do show slight improvement on the previous year.

	Higher Care	Higher Childcare & Development	Higher Human Biology	Higher Psychology	Higher Sociology	Higher English
Grade A	13.9%	40.0%	18.8%	14.0%	0.0%	25.0%
Grade B	13.9%	40.0%	37.5%	8.0%	25.0%	62.5%
Grade C	41.7%	20.0%	18.8%	22.0%	0.0%	12.5%
Grade D	11.1%	0.0%	12.5%	8.0%	25.0%	0.0%
No award	19.4%	0.0%	12.5%	48.0%	50.0%	0.0%

The College Higher attainment rate at A-C is 64.3%.

BTEC Results 2017/18

The college has discontinued all BTEC awards requiring external examination for 2018/19. The previous courses: Sport, Art and Animal Care have now changed to SQA as the awarding body.