



Key stage 4 congratulatory letters

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

Schools receiving congratulatory letters

This guide details the criteria agreed by the Department for Education for congratulatory letters sent to secondary schools based on 2016 key stage 4 results.

Expiry or review date

This information will next be reviewed in January 2018.

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 schools¹ based on 2016 key stage 4 results², meeting one or more of the following criteria:

Progress 8

State-funded schools in England who achieved a Progress 8 score defined as well above the national average.

These are schools who achieved a Progress 8 score of 0.5 or higher and a lower confidence interval of zero or higher.

¹ Includes state-funded mainstream schools with results published in the secondary school performance tables on 19 January 2017. Excludes closed schools (not re-opening as a converter academy), schools rated by Ofsted as 'requires improvement' or 'inadequate', and schools with suppressed data for the relevant criteria.

² Based on data published in the performance tables on 19 January 2017

English Baccalaureate entry, non-selective schools

Top non-selective state-funded schools in England showing the highest percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate.

English Baccalaureate entry, selective schools

Top selective state-funded schools in England showing the highest percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate.

English Baccalaureate attainment, non-selective schools

Top non-selective state-funded schools in England showing the highest percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate.

English Baccalaureate attainment, selective schools

Top selective state-funded schools in England showing the highest percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate.

Number of schools meeting each criteria

A total of 306 schools received congratulatory letters. Schools who met more than one criteria were sent one letter congratulating them on each criteria they met.

The table below shows a breakdown the number of schools receiving letters in each scenario³:

	Number of schools
Schools with well above average Progress 8 scores	138
Non-selective schools with a high percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate	46
Non-selective schools with a high percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate	37
Non-selective schools with a high percentage of pupils entering and achieving the English Baccalaureate	26
Non-selective schools with well above average Progress 8 scores and a high percentage of pupils entering and achieving the English Baccalaureate	18
Non-selective schools with well above average Progress 8 scores and a high percentage of pupils achieving the English Baccalaureate	16

³ For criteria relating to non-selective schools, approximately the top 100 schools were chosen to receive a congratulatory letter. For selective schools, approximately the top 10 schools were chosen.

	Number of schools
Non-selective schools with well above average Progress 8 scores and a high percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate	9
Selective schools with well above average Progress 8 scores and a high percentage of pupils entering and achieving the English Baccalaureate	9
Selective schools with a high percentage of pupils entering the English Baccalaureate	6
Selective schools with a high percentage of pupils entering and achieving the English Baccalaureate	1

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