

**A Summary Report for Lindsey Parish Council Meeting
on 12th September 2018
from James Finch – County Councillor for the Stour Valley Division**

➤ **Suffolk students celebrate improved GCSE achievements**

Self-reported statistics from Suffolk schools, released on 23 August, show that more students in Suffolk have achieved expected levels of GCSE attainment in English and maths this year. The majority of GCSEs results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'.

More than 7,000 students in Suffolk were entered for GCSE results. According to self-reported results collated from around 80% of schools in Suffolk, 67% of students achieved a grade 4 and above in English and maths this year. The figures state 2% more students have achieved the expected standard for English and maths, compared with last year.

Some schools across the county have made significant improvements for pupils achieving the threshold for English and Math compared to last year: These include:-

- Bungay High School: 11% increase to 67%
- Claydon High School: 10% increase to 72%
- Samuel Ward Academy, Haverhill: 12% increase to 64%
- **Thomas Gainsborough School, Great Conard: 9% increase to 70%**
- King Edward VI School, Bury St Edmunds: 8% increase to 76%
- Debenham High School has again reported the highest number of students achieving a grade 4 and above in English and maths at 88%.

NB All these figures are based on self-reported data from schools and academies to Suffolk County Council. These results are subject to validation by the Department for Education later in the year.

➤ **Another year of outstanding results for Suffolk students at A Level**

Self-reported A-level figures, released on 16th August, show that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*-E grades awarded above the national average. Almost 3,000 pupils were entered for A-levels in Suffolk. Although yet to be verified, the figures show that 98.1% of A-levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*- E grade, compared with 97.6% nationally. Suffolk maintains its position, and continues to be above the national average. Early indications also show that Suffolk's Academic average points per entry has risen by 0.2 compared with this time last year.

Pass rates remain high across the county, with St Benedict's Catholic School in Bury St Edmunds and Sir John Leman High School in Beccles both reporting a 100% pass rate (A*- E grade achieved).

There has been a 3% increase in Suffolk students achieving the top grades of A* or A. Farlingaye High School in Woodbridge made a significant gain with 36% of its students achieving the top grades.

NB A level and Applied General figures are based on self-reported data from schools and academies to Suffolk County Council. The results are subject to validation by the Department for Education in the New Year.

➤ **Support now available for young people in Suffolk leaving residential care**

Thursday 9th August saw the launch of the 'Staying Close' pilot scheme. Young people leaving residential care in Suffolk will now be able to stay closer to their children's home under this new government trial.

The scheme will ensure young people from the age of 15 start thinking about their future and planning for independent living with the assistance and support of residential care workers and those they have established relationships with.

Often this detailed planning doesn't happen until a young person is close to the time they need to move on from the home, which sometimes leads to unnecessary distress and anxiety about the

future. Resources are now focused on early intervention of move-on support to reduce this anxiety. The pilot also offers young people the opportunity of keeping in touch with residential care workers and their children's home for emotional and practical support.

Funding for the three-year pilot scheme was awarded by the Department for Education following a highly competitive national bidding process. **Suffolk County Council invited The Ryes Children's Home in Sudbury to join them in piloting the scheme to test how this move on care can be achieved for children who want to remain living close to their home.**

For more details <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/children-in-care-and-care-leavers/early-intervention-and-prevention-for-children-living-in-children-homes/>. For further specific information contact the "The Staying Close Team" – Email stayingclose@suffolk.gov.uk or Mobile 07894231586.

Suffolk's tourist trade booming as economy hits £2bn mark

Suffolk's tourism trade has seen its biggest boom for a decade – with the visitor economy reaching the £2 billion mark for the first time. Interim figures released on 8 August by Visit Suffolk show that tourism grew by at least five per cent in 2017, more than double the year before.

Overnight visits and lengths of stay for tourists were also up by more than 4 per cent. Figures show visitors now spend more money on each trip to the county than ever before, with the value of the day market up more than seven per cent.

The number of jobs in the county's tourism sector rose by 6 per cent to 42,428. **This means 13.6 % of all employment in Suffolk is in the tourism sector.**

Amanda Bond, Visit Suffolk's brand manager, said these results would not have been achieved without the continued backing for the county-wide offer from all the district authorities, Suffolk County Council, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Destination Marketing/Management Organisations (DMOs).

My Priorities

Education - Supporting Vulnerable People - Jobs and Growth - Localism and the Stour Valley - Building on Suffolk's Strength all underpinned by strong financial management and low council tax

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