

# Minute of Seminar



## Seminar – Creating a World-Class Education System - Examination Attainment 2016

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 13 December 2016	12:30	Council Chambers, Midlothian House

### Present:

Councillor Constable (Chair)	Vic Bourne
Councillor Baxter Councillor de Vink Councillor Imrie	Margaret Harkness Rev. Ruth Halley
Councillor Milligan	
Councillor Muirhead	
Councillor Pottinger	
Councillor Parry Councillor Rosie	

## **1 Introduction**

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Councillor Constable welcomed the attendees and advised that Grace Vickers would lead the presentation supported by the six Secondary Head Teachers.

## **2 Declarations of interest**

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No declarations of interest were received.

## **3 Seminar**

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### **(a) Background**

By way of background reference was made to the following report:

“Creating a World-Class Education System – Examination Attainment 2016” which would be submitted to the Council meeting on Tuesday 20 December 2016.

### **(b) Purpose of the Seminar**

Grace Vickers explained that the purpose of the Seminar was to provide members with an update on the current position with regard to attainment levels within Midlothian Schools. To this end each of the Secondary Head Teachers would provide a brief overview of the attainment levels pertaining to their school. Thereafter an opportunity would be given for elected Members to ask questions on what they had heard.

### **(c) Presentation**

Thereafter the Seminar received a presentation from Grace Vickers which highlighted the following:-

- Level 4 Literacy and Numeracy showed an improvement of 2.96% when compared with the previous year.
- Level 5 Literacy and Numeracy showed an improvement of 16.2% when compared with the previous year.
- Attainment was now above the virtual comparator and the national average for levels 4 and 5.
- Attainment in level 4 Literacy and Numeracy showed an 8.11% improvement when compared with the previous year.
- Attainment for literacy and numeracy by the end of S6 in 2016 was above the national average but below the virtual comparator.
- Attainment in level 5 Literacy and Numeracy showed a 9.89% improvement when compared with the previous year.
- Attainment in 2016 for literacy and numeracy by the end of S6 was below the virtual comparator and the national average

- A three year improvement trend for Literacy and Numeracy at level 4 for the 30% most deprived learners by the end of S4 had been achieved. Attainment in 2016 was now above both the virtual and the national average. Attainment at this level in 2016 was 8.07% higher than the previous year
- A three year improvement trend for positive destinations for the 30% most deprived S4 cohort by the end of S4 had been achieved. In 2016 this indicator was above the national average but remained slightly below the virtual average by 0.46%.
- A three year improvement trend for positive destinations for the 30% most deprived S4 cohort by the end of S4 had been secured. In 2016 this indicator was above the national average but remained slightly below the virtual average by 0.46%.

Thereafter the six Secondary Head Teachers expanded on the various successes and challenges with regard to attainment levels impacting on their own individual school.

#### **(d) Question and answer session**

The Head of Education and the Head Teachers responded with further clarification to questions raised by Councillors during which the following points were noted:

- Initiatives in place to deal with issues such as dyslexia, the benefits of soft play activities and the transition from Primary to Secondary schooling
- The importance of a “one Council” approach linking up Health, Social Care, Housing etc, which all impacted on the learning experience within Schools
- The need to share examples of good practice throughout the Authority
- The need to revisit the issue of employing Business Managers within Schools in order to allow the Head Teacher to take a more strategic role in the running of the school.

Mr Bourne was heard on behalf of the Religious Representatives expressing their appreciation of the information provided during the Seminar and in particular the good news involved in the Positive Destinations initiative.

Councillor Constable thanked all those involved in what had proved to be a most informative and useful Seminar and stressed that this would be the first of an annual event addressing these important issues.

The meeting terminated at 2.25 pm