

Press Release

Date: 18th October 2018

WINCHESTER'S WESTGATE SCHOOL TOPS HAMPSHIRE GCSE LEAGUE TABLES

The Westgate School, Winchester, has come top of the official GCSE school league tables for Hampshire for the second year running.

The school was ranked number one in the county for both attainment and pupil progress in the Government's newly-published provisional performance tables.

The pupil progress score wasn't just the best for a Hampshire state school, it was the highest of any state school in the neighbouring counties of Wiltshire, Dorset, West Sussex and the Isle of Wight and puts Westgate in the top 150 state schools in England out of 6,530 schools.

Headteacher Fae Dean said: 'We are incredibly proud of this result which is a testament to the dedication and talents of the whole Westgate team, but most importantly it means that our pupils will have left having achieved the strongest outcomes and greatest options for future life choices. We are very proud of them indeed.

'This achievement is a real reflection of our pupils' commitment to learning and the partnership between their families and our school since they are the first cohort to sit the full range of the new, even more challenging, GCSE courses. We are able to build on the success of pupils' learning in our linked primary schools and it is a real pleasure to be able to work so closely with our local schools.'

The provisional school league tables, published by the Department for Education, rank state schools on a range of performance measures. Westgate came out top in Hampshire on Progress 8, the Government's preferred measure for judging the quality of a school's teaching and learning. Progress 8 looks at the 'value added' by a school and measures pupil progress across eight key subjects, including English and Maths, between the end of primary school and GCSEs.

According to the provisional figures released this week, pupils who left Westgate in the summer had a Progress 8 score of 0.78 - which means across all eligible subjects, they did over three quarters of a GCSE grade better than similar pupils nationally.

In particular, the most academically able pupils who joined Westgate with the highest SATS scores at the end of primary school, achieved almost one grade higher than similar pupils nationally.

Westgate also came top in Hampshire for the Government's Attainment 8 score, which looks at the performance of pupils in eight GCSEs. Westgate pupils scored

60.7 points this summer, higher than any other school in Hampshire and in the top 250 state schools in England.

The league table also reveals that 45% of all Westgate's GCSE grades in 2018 were at level 7 or above (the equivalent of an A or A* under the old GCSE system).

The percentage of pupils achieving at least a grade 5 or more in English and Maths is also the highest in Hampshire, along with Thornden School, at 68%.

Mrs Dean said: 'Pupils' academic achievement is of course, something of which we are most proud - but it is only one measure of success. At The Westgate School, we pride ourselves on being a very happy and supportive community that embraces a wide range of skills and talents and particularly those in sport and the arts.'

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

- 1) Summer 2018 saw the introduction of new grades for GCSEs in most subjects. GCSEs are now ranked from 9 (highest score) to 1. A grade 4 is similar to a low C under the old system, a grade 5 is a high C and low B, a grade 6 is a high B, a grade 7 is an A, a grade 8 is an A* and a grade 9 is an A**.
- 2) The provisional performance tables published by the Government use a range of measures to assess schools. The Attainment 8 score measures the achievements of pupils across eight subjects. The Progress 8 score shows how they have improved at secondary school compared to other pupils who were at the same level when they finished primary school.
- 3) The league tables are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>.
- 4) The Westgate School is Hampshire's first 4-16 'all through school'.