

October 2018

# DUDLEY **Insight**

## THE ENGLISH CHALLENGE GCSE RESITS - THE RESULTS



This is one of a series of papers aimed at providing our stakeholders, both internal and external, with up-to-the-minute information on how we are strategically responding to local and national challenges. The papers may be of interest to many relevant stakeholders including parents, employers and the Local Enterprise Partnership.

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# CONTEXT

As outlined in the March 2016 Insight, the college and wider Further Education sector embarked upon a challenging 2015/16 with the introduction of the new GCSE resit policy. In addition to the recruitment of staff and increased volume of learners, attendance, motivation and English skills of D grade learners proved to be significant challenges.

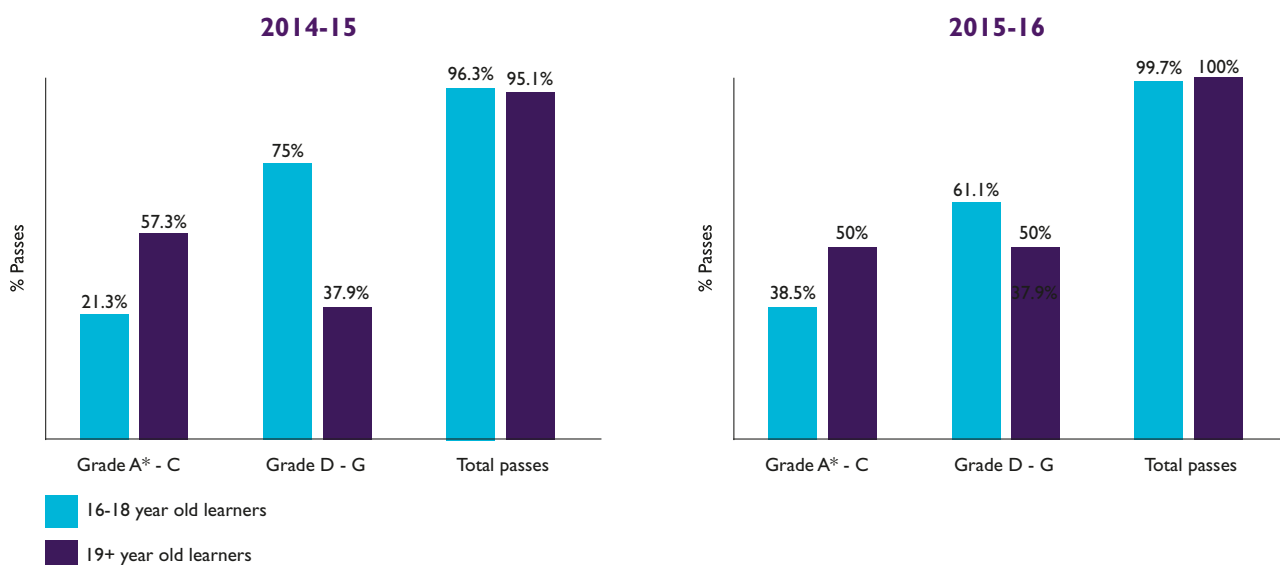
We approached the challenges with enthusiasm and commitment setting ourselves challenging strategic

targets for GCSE resits in English. For 15/16 our target was that 40% of young people completing a GCSE English resit with us would achieve a grade C or better. We anticipated that 300 young people would complete their GCSE English resit with us therefore 120 would achieve a grade C or better. For adults we anticipated numbers would remain static as the new GCSE policy would not have such a significant effect on this group.

# ACTUAL OUTCOMES

The table below shows our actual results for completer's including numbers achieving an A\* to C in their GCSE English resits. The results demonstrate not only how very close we were to achieving our 40% target but also a substantial improvement against the previous year and a significant increase in the numbers of young people leaving us with an A\* - C in GCSE English. For learners 19+ we surpassed our target by achieving 50% grade A\* - C.

GCSE English		Provider 2014-15				Provider 2015-16			
		Leavers	Grade A*-C	Grade D-G	Total passes	Leavers	Grade A*-C	Grade D-G	Total passes
16-18	Completer's	164				314			
	No. of passes		35	123	158		121	192	313
	% of passes		21.3%	75%	96.3%		38.5%	61.1%	99.7%
19+	Completer's	103				106			
	No. of passes		59	39	98		53	53	106
	% of passes		57.3%	37.9%	95.1%		50%	50%	100%
Total	Completer's	267				420			
	No. of passes		94	162	256		174	245	419
	% of passes		35.2%	60.7%	95.9%		41.4%	58.3%	99.8%



## WHAT NEXT?

The college remains whole-heartedly committed to supporting as many young people and adults as possible to achieve a grade 9 - 4 (previously A\* - C) in GCSE English resits. In 2016/17 we anticipate that 400 young people and 100 adults will complete their GCSE English resit with us. Our target for completer's achieving a grade 9 - 4 rises to 50%. If we achieve this, it will mean 200 young people and 50 adults leave us with GCSE English grade 9 - 4.

To support us in achieving this we have implemented further changes to delivery and support for learners resitting GCSE English with us in this year, including:

- More robust initial assessment of GCSE English skills to ensure a delivery model which meets the needs of learners
- Staff development of existing Additional Support team to meet GCSE English needs
- Daily intervention sessions targeted at learners struggling with elements of the English syllabus

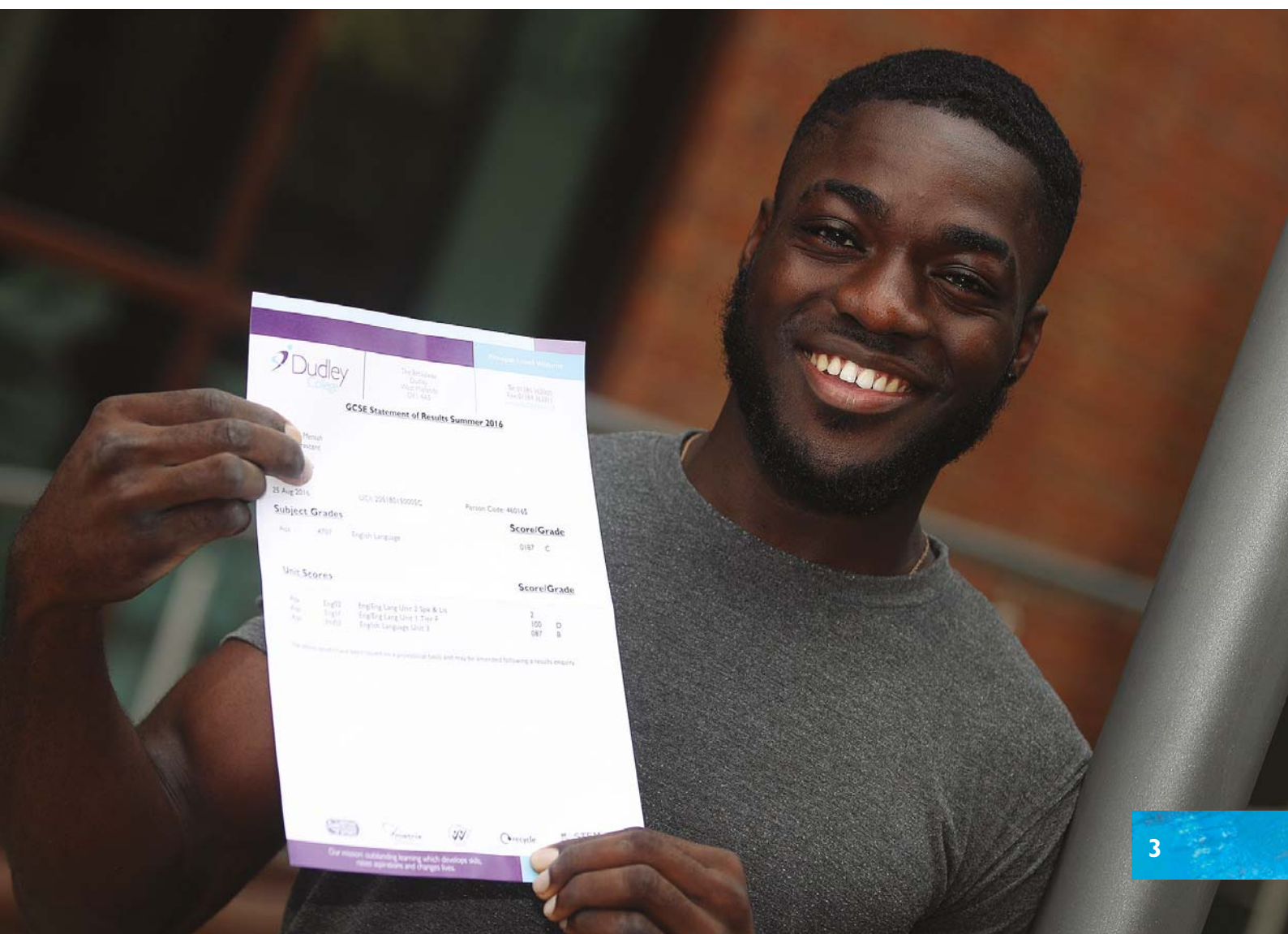
- Focused exam energiser sessions delivered prior to examinations to focus and motivate learners.

Although we are confident these initiatives will enhance learners' experience and support them to narrow their English skills gaps, we remain apprehensive about the impact of changes to the GCSE English qualification. Particularly the removal of the controlled assessment which we believe will have a negative impact on learner achievement and cause some anxiety amongst learners.

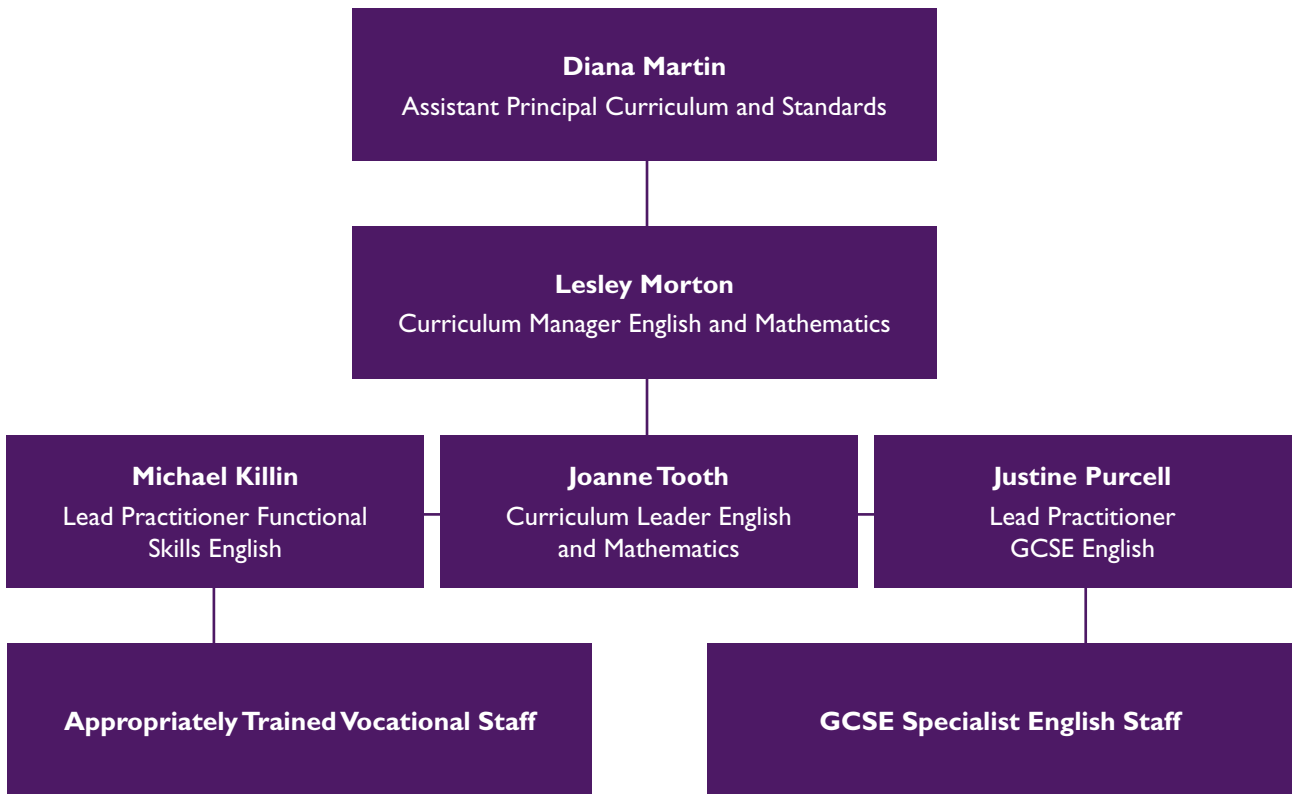
If you would like to know more about the GCSE English Challenge, please contact

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# GCSE ENGLISH DELIVERY TEAM



## Dudley Insight catalogue:

- Issue 1: The STEM Challenge - October 2014
- Issue 2: The Maths Challenge - October 2014
- Issue 3: The English Challenge - October 2014
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- Issue 11: The Mathematics challenge GCSE resits - March 2016
- Issue 12: The English challenge GCSE Resits - March 2016
- Issue 13: The Mathematics challenge GCSE Resits - The Results - October 2016
- Issue 14: The English challenge GCSE Resits - The Results - October 2016