

**REPORT TO:** Council Committee for Education

**MEETING DATE:** 16 March 2010

**BY:** Executive Director of Education & Children's Services

**SUBJECT:** Reporting on Positive School Leavers Destinations in East Lothian 2008-2009

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the trends in positive school leaver destinations from East Lothian schools during academic session 2008-2009.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Skills Development Scotland (SDS), on behalf of the Scottish Government, provides information about school leaver destinations to Education Authorities and schools on an annual basis. A full statistical report for East Lothian is lodged in the Members Library and can be viewed online at:

<http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/briefings/school-leaver-destination-return--skills-intervention-activity-reports-december-2009.aspx>.

National data for 2008/09 is also lodged in the Members Library and can be accessed on the Scottish Government Website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00774>

- 3.2 Education Authorities and schools use this data to report against the National indicator: "Increase the proportion of school leavers (from Scottish publicly funded schools) in positive and sustained destinations (FE, HE, employment or training)"; to inform initiatives and evidence the success of initiatives developed as part of the More Choices More

Chances (MCMC) strategy; and to identify areas to target resources to improve post school outcomes for young people.

- 3.3 Skills Development Scotland reports are based on 100% follow up of all young people who left publicly funded secondary schools in Scotland, between 1 August 2008 and 31 July 2009. This data relates to the latest known destination of leavers in September 2009.
- 3.4 A school leaver is defined as a young person of school leaving age who left school during or at the end of the school year, where the school year is taken to run from 1 August to 31 July.
- 3.5 Positive destinations include higher education (HE), further education (FE), training, voluntary work and employment in line with the definition of positive destinations set out in Indicator 10 of the Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007 can be viewed at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/30090722/18>
- 3.6 Local Authority Overview 2008-09

There was a decrease of 189 (16.7%) young people reported in the School Leaver Destination Return for publicly funded secondary schools in East Lothian this year. Nationally, there has been a 9% decrease compared to 2007/08. Contributing factors are:

- School rolls (S4-S6) have dropped by 3% nationally in the past two years.
- 3.1% more pupils chose to remain in school after the statutory leaving date.
- Improved data validation with ScotXed, which matched clients to the School Census dataset.

- 3.6.1 Appendix 1 shows the East Lothian trends from 1999 to 2009 by Leaver Destination.

- Overall, the percentage of leavers entering a positive destination is 83.4%, a decrease of 0.1% on last year and 2.3% below the national average of 85.7%.
- The percentage of young people entering further and higher education has increased by 10.5% on last year to 60.9% just below the national average of 61.9%, its highest level in 10 years both locally and nationally.
- The percentage of East Lothian leavers entering higher education has increased to 38.3%, a rise of 10.3% since 1999/2000, and sits 3.4% above the national average as the 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate in Scotland.

- The percentage of leavers entering further education has risen by 9.2% since 1999/2000 and by 3.5% on last year to 22.6%, below the national average of 27%.
- There has also been an increase of 1.8% to 3.2% on the percentage of young people entering training since last year, its highest level since 2003/04. Nationally, this figure has risen marginally since last year from 4.9% to 5.1%.
- This increase is mainly due to fewer labour market opportunities being available as a result of the current recession and is balanced by a decrease in leavers entering employment, which has reached its lowest level in 10 years at 19.1% in East Lothian, a decrease of 11.8% on 2007/08, and just above the national average of 18.4% which is 6.9% lower than last year, the largest national annual decrease since 1992/1993.
- The percentage of leavers who are *unemployed and seeking employment or training* in East Lothian has risen slightly again this year by 0.2% to 13.2% to remain above the national average of 11.5%, and is now the 8<sup>th</sup> highest rate in Scotland.
- The percentage of leavers *unemployed and not seeking employment or training* increased slightly from 2.2% to 2.6%, 1% above the national rate, but is still lower than the local rate five years ago.

### 3.7 Destination Analysis for Individual Secondary Schools 2008/2009

The comparative destinations for each East Lothian secondary school are shown in Appendix 2. The pattern is as would be expected given the profile of pupils attending the schools and their career aspirations and opportunities. The data shows that the highest proportion of young people in a positive destination live in the eastern areas of the county.

### 3.8 Positive Destinations by Gender

Girls are more likely to enter full-time further or higher education than boys after leaving school, while boys are more likely to enter the categories of employment or unemployed and seeking as illustrated in Appendix 3. A similar pattern has been observed in previous years, although the gender gap has narrowed locally and nationally over the last two years.

In 2008/09, the percentage of female leavers in East Lothian entering either higher or further education is 64.9% compared to 57.2% of males and of those entering further education 54.9% are female. The proportion of girls entering further or higher education is 7.6% higher than the proportion of boys, compared with 8.2% higher in 2006/07. The gap is more noticeable nationally, where the proportion of girls has reduced from 15% higher than boys in 2006/07 to 12% in 2008/09.

The percentage of males entering Employment and Training (23.2%) is 1.9% higher than that for females at 21.3% with 53.6% of entrants to employment being male. The gap between boys in East Lothian entering employment and girls, despite an increase last year, has reduced from 3.2% in 2006/07 to 2.6% in 2008/09. At a national level, the gap has reduced from 11% in 2006/07 to 7% in 2008/09.

Overall, the percentage of females (86.5%) in East Lothian entering positive destinations in 2008/09 is 5.7% higher than that for males (80.8%). At a national level, 87.2% females entered positive destinations after leaving school compared with 84.3% males.

### 3.9 Positive Destinations by Stage of Leaving

Staying-on in school past the minimum leaving age is recognised as a good indicator that young people will enter a positive destination when they leave school. 90.8% of East Lothian leavers in 2008/09 who left school at the end of S6 entered a positive destination compared with 69.1% who left by the end of S4. These figures are below the national averages of 93.4% and 75.2% respectively.

### 3.10 Positive Destinations by Other Characteristics & Location

The analysis of school leaver destinations by other characteristics and location helps Education Authorities and schools to identify groups of young people who might be at risk of not entering a positive destination when they leave school. Appendix 4 details the total number of leavers in East Lothian and across Scotland against each characteristic and the percentage of those school leavers entering positive destinations. The main findings are:

- School leavers living in the most deprived areas, as defined by the 2009 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), and large urban areas are less likely to enter a positive destination than those from the least deprived and more rural areas. 61.3% of East Lothian school leavers living in the 20% most deprived areas entered a positive destination compared with 90.8% from the 20% least deprived areas. The national figures are 77.2% and 92.7% respectively.
- 64.3 % of leavers identified as being looked after (either at home or away from home) at the time of the pupil census in their leaving year entered a positive destination in 2008/09 compared with 83.7% of those who were not looked after. This was above the national average, where only 55% of looked after leavers entered into positive destinations.
- Similarly, only 61.1% of leavers, who were identified as registered for free school meals in the pupil census, went into positive destinations, compared with 85.3% who were not registered. The national averages in 2008/09 are 71.3% and 87.3% respectively.

- School leavers in East Lothian who have been assessed or declared as having a disability were less likely to enter positive destinations (65.2%). This was considerably lower than the national average of 80.5% in 2008/09.
- In terms of Ethnic Background and National Identity, school leavers of ethnic minority in East Lothian were most likely to enter positive destinations. For national identity, those in the Irish and Northern Irish groups were most likely to enter positive destinations. Care should be taken though when interpreting results from small numbers as they are likely to fluctuate from year to year.
- Leavers with Additional Support Needs (ASN) both in East Lothian and nationally were less likely to enter a positive destination. Leavers are identified as having ASN if they have a Record of Needs (RoN), Individualised Educational Programme (IEP) or Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP). 84.1% of East Lothian school leavers in 2008/09 with no recorded ASN entered a positive destination compared with 60% of those with a RoN or CSP and 53.8% of those with an IEP but no RoN or CSP. This pattern was also reflected nationally with 86.4% of leavers with no recorded ASN entering positive destinations compared to 78.1% with a RoN or CSP and 69.8% with an IEP but no RoN or CSP.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Financial - None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 School Leavers Destination Return for 2008-09 Local Authority East Lothian Council, published by Skills Development Scotland in December 2009 which has been lodged in the Members Library and can be viewed online at: <http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/briefings/school-leaver-destination-return--skills-intervention-activity-reports-december-2009.aspx>
- 7.2 Education Series ISSN 1479-7569 'Destinations of Leavers From Scottish Schools: 2008/09' 24 November 2009, a National Statistics Publication for Scotland issued by the Scottish Government which has been lodged in the Members Library and can be viewed on the Government Website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00774>
- 7.3 Scottish Budget Spending Review 2007:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/30090722/18>
- 7.4 Table showing school leaver destination trends from 1999 to 2009 for East Lothian and Nationally (Appendix 1).
- 7.5 Table showing school leaver destinations for 2008/2009 in East Lothian by individual secondary school (Appendix 2).
- 7.6 Table showing school leaver destinations for 2008/09 in East Lothian by Gender (Appendix 3).
- 7.7 Table showing positive destinations by Characteristics & Location (Appendix 4).

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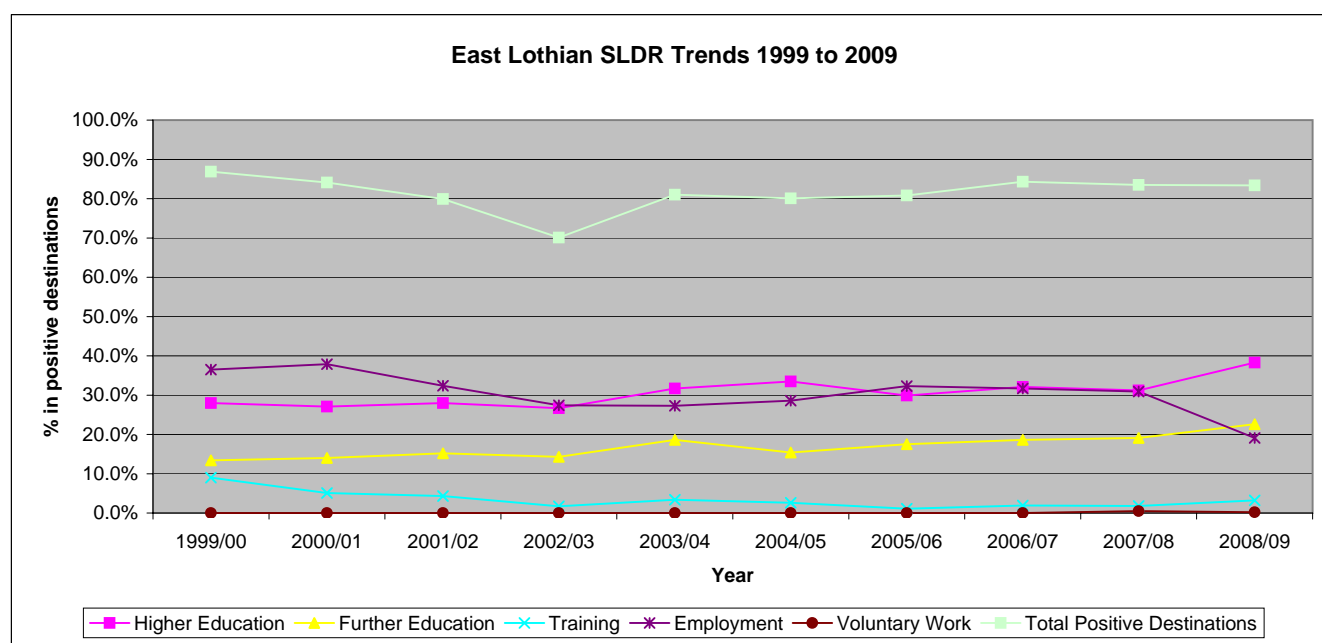
## East Lothian School Leaver Destinations Trends from 1999 to 2009

Year	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed NOT Seeking	Not Known	Other Known	Total Positive Destinations
1999/00	864	28.0%	13.4%	9.0%	36.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%	6.4%	86.9%
2000/01	903	27.1%	14.0%	5.1%	37.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.2%	9.7%	84.1%
2001/02	964	28.0%	15.2%	4.3%	32.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.4%	12.8%	79.9%
2002/03	917	26.7%	14.3%	1.7%	27.4%	0.0%	16.7%	1.1%	12.1%	0.0%	70.1%
2003/04	933	31.7%	18.6%	3.4%	27.3%	0.0%	15.0%	1.6%	2.3%	0.0%	81.0%
2004/05	936	33.5%	15.4%	2.6%	28.6%	0.0%	13.7%	3.0%	3.2%	0.0%	80.1%
2005/06	991	29.9%	17.5%	1.1%	32.3%	0.0%	15.2%	2.7%	1.3%	0.0%	80.8%
2006/07	1,016	32.1%	18.6%	1.9%	31.7%	0.0%	12.9%	2.0%	0.9%	0.0%	84.3%
2007/08	1,130	31.2%	19.1%	1.8%	30.9%	0.5%	13.0%	2.2%	1.2%	0.0%	83.5%
2008/09	941	38.3%	22.6%	3.2%	19.1%	0.2%	13.2%	2.6%	0.9%	0.0%	83.4%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Leavers going onto voluntary work were included under 'unemployed not seeking' prior to 2006/07

Prior to 2002-2003 both the Unemployed Seeking and Unemployed Not Seeking categories were reported in a separate category called Other Known.



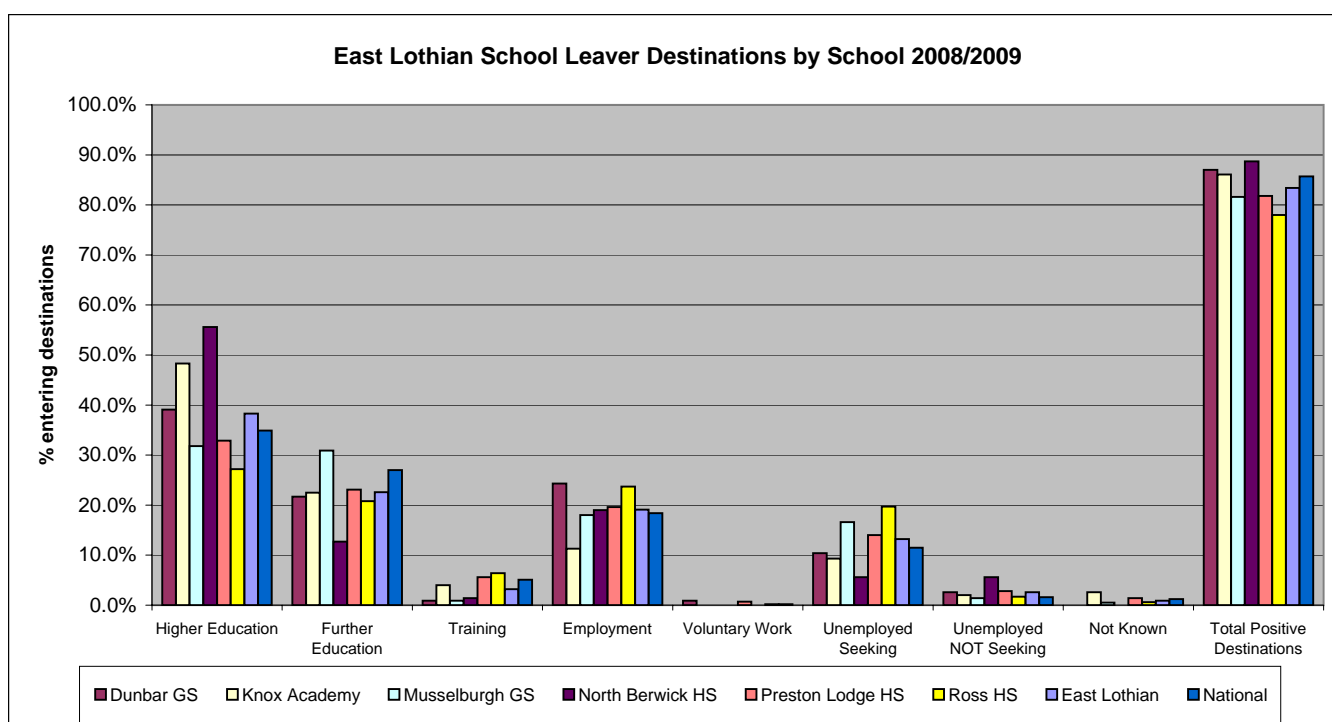
## National Trends in School Leaver Destinations from 1999 to 2009

Year	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed NOT Seeking	Not Known	Other Known	Total Positive Destinations
1999/00	55,569	31.5	19.3	7.1	26.0		0.0	0.0	3.5	12.6	83.9
2000/01	57,067	32.4	19.8	6.4	24.0		0.0	0.0	3.7	13.7	82.6
2001/02	56,513	32.1	20.3	5.7	22.6		0.0	0.0	3.4	15.8	80.7
2002/03	57,266	31.0	21.0	5.0	23.0		12.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	80.0
2003/04	56,537	29.5	20.9	4.5	25.0		13.3	3.1	3.8	0.0	79.9
2004/05	55,952	31.4	21.3	4.9	26.6		10.2	2.9	2.7	0.0	84.2
2005/06	56,619	30.5	23.2	5.1	26.2		11.1	2.2	1.6	0.0	85.1
2006/07	57,364	29.7	23.3	5.1	28.3	0.3	10.8	1.2	1.4	0.0	86.7
2007/08	58,844	31.1	24.8	4.9	25.3	0.2	10.9	1.5	1.1	0.0	86.3
2008/09	53,532	34.9	27.0	5.1	18.4	0.2	11.5	1.6	1.2	0.0	85.6

East Lothian School Leaver Destinations by School for 2008/2009

School	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed NOT Seeking	Not Known	Total Positive Destinations
Dunbar GS	115	39.1%	21.7%	0.9%	24.3%	0.9%	10.4%	2.6%	0.0%	87.0%
Knox Academy	151	48.3%	22.5%	4.0%	11.3%	0.0%	9.3%	2.0%	2.6%	86.1%
Musselburgh GS	217	31.8%	30.9%	0.9%	18.0%	0.0%	16.6%	1.4%	0.5%	81.6%
North Berwick HS	142	55.6%	12.7%	1.4%	19.0%	0.0%	5.6%	5.6%	0.0%	88.7%
Preston Lodge HS	143	32.9%	23.1%	5.6%	19.6%	0.7%	14.0%	2.8%	1.4%	81.8%
Ross HS	173	27.2%	20.8%	6.4%	23.7%	0.0%	19.7%	1.7%	0.6%	78.0%
East Lothian	941	38.3%	22.6%	3.2%	19.1%	0.2%	13.2%	2.6%	0.9%	83.4%
National	941	34.9%	27.0%	5.1%	18.4%	0.2%	11.5%	1.6%	1.2%	85.7%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

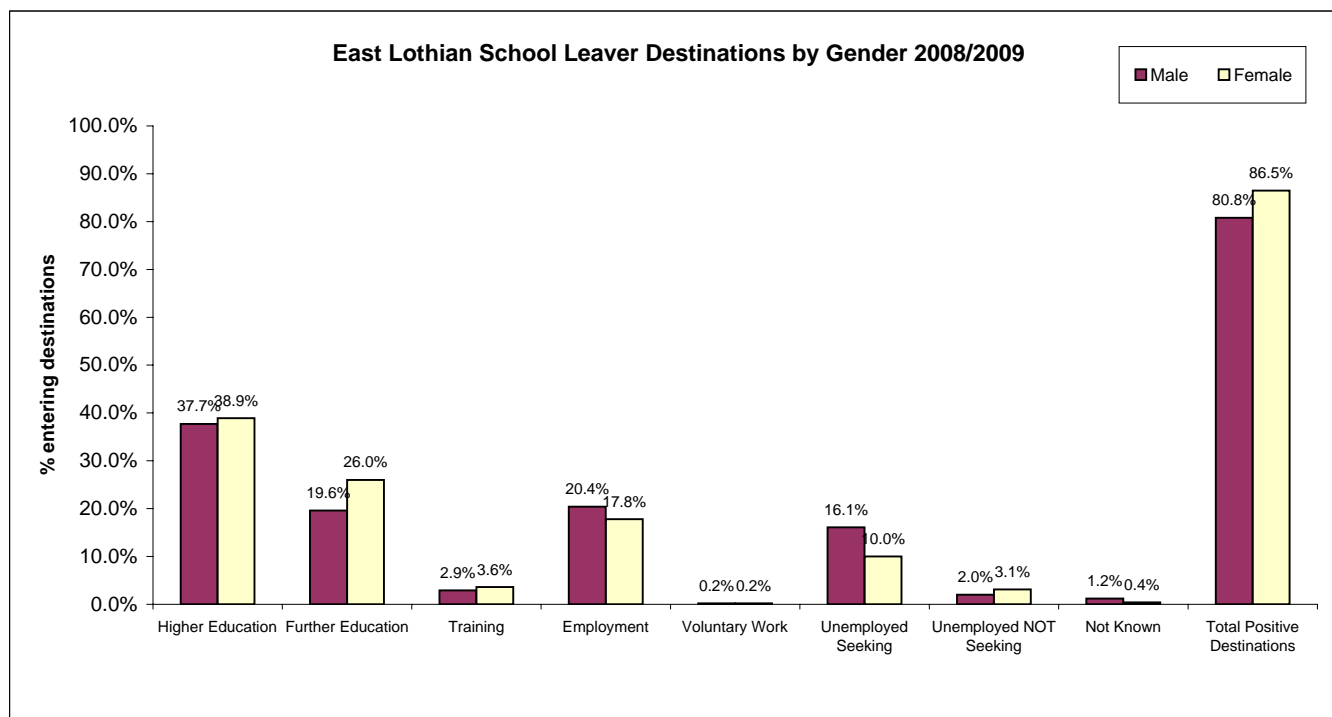




**East Lothian School Leaver Destinations by Gender for 2008/2009**

Gender	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed NOT Seeking	Not Known	Total Positive Destinations
Male	491	37.7%	19.6%	2.9%	20.4%	0.2%	16.1%	2.0%	1.2%	80.8%
Female	450	38.9%	26.0%	3.6%	17.8%	0.2%	10.0%	3.1%	0.4%	86.5%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding



**National Data**

Gender	Total Leavers	Higher Education	Further Education	Training	Employment	Voluntary Work	Unemployed Seeking	Unemployed NOT Seeking	Not Known	Total Positive Destinations
Male	27,061	31.6%	24.5%	6.3%	21.7%	0.2%	13.3%	1.1%	1.3%	84.3%
Female	26,471	38.3%	29.6%	4.0%	15.0%	0.3%	9.8%	2.0%	1.1%	87.2%

Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded secondary schools in East Lothian & Scotland  
by Characteristics and whether they've entered a positive destination, 2008/09

Note: Averages calculated from small numbers should be treated with caution and are likely to fluctuate year on year  
Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Pupil Characteristic	Positive Destinations <sup>1</sup>			
	East Lothian		National	
	Total Number of Leavers	% Of Leavers	Total Number of Leavers	% Of Leavers
<b>All leavers</b>	941	83.4	53,532	85.7
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	491	80.8	27,061	84.3
Female	450	86.5	26,471	87.2
<b>Ethnic Background</b>				
White - UK	885	83.5	49,958	85.8
White - Other	6	83.3	666	87.8
Mixed	3	100.0	332	82.5
Asian - Indian	1	0.0	155	91.6
Asian - Pakistani	1	100.0	629	90.1
Asian - Chinese	2	100.0	174	96.0
Asian - Other	-	-	154	88.3
Black	3	100.0	154	85.7
Other	2	0.0	201	81.6
Not Known / Disclosed	38	84.2	1,109	78.4
<b>National Identity</b>				
Scottish	710	83.8	40,974	85.8
English	32	84.4	1,266	86.0
British	89	79.8	7,269	87.4
Northern Irish	1	100.0	43	81.4
Welsh	2	50.0	50	84.0
Irish	1	100.0	21	81.0
Other	7	71.4	905	87.7
Not Known / Disclosed	99	84.8	3,004	79.2
<b>Stage Left School<sup>2</sup></b>				
by End of S4	152	69.1	10,788	75.2
S5	244	76.6	15,814	80.0
S6	541	90.8	26,837	93.4
Other (SP or AD)	4	50.0	93	68.8
<b>Urban/Rural Classification</b>				
Large Urban Areas	198	83.8	18,932	84.3
Other Urban Areas	1	100.0	19,760	85.9
Accessible Small Towns	355	79.7	5,288	87.7
Remote Small Towns	138	86.2	4,054	87.5
Accessible Rural	126	82.5	3,399	85.6
Remote Rural	123	91.1	2,099	88.2
<b>Deprivation (SIMD 2009 ranking)<sup>3</sup></b>				
Most deprived 0-20%	31	61.3	11,613	77.2
20-40%	192	76.0	10,337	82.3
40-60%	203	84.7	10,654	87.0
60-80%	320	84.7	10,744	90.2
Least Deprived 80-100%	195	90.8	10,174	92.7
<b>Free School Meal Registration</b>				
Pupils Registered for Free School Meals	72	61.1	5,458	71.3
Pupils not Registered for Free School Meals	869	85.3	48,074	87.3
<b>Disability</b>				
Assessed and/or declared as having a disability	23	65.2	738	80.5
Not assessed or declared as having a disability	918	83.9	52,794	85.7
<b>Additional Support Needs (ASN)<sup>4</sup></b>				
Leaver with RoN or CSP	10	60.0	535	78.1
Leaver with IEP Only	13	53.8	2,028	69.8
Leaver with no IEP, RoN or CSP	918	84.1	50,969	86.4
<b>Looked After Status</b>				
Looked After by Local Authorities	14	64.3	1,043	54.8
Not Looked After by Local Authorities	927	83.7	52,489	86.3

**Additional Notes:**

1 Positive destinations include higher education, further education, employment, voluntary work or training as defined in the Scottish Budget Spending Review National Indicator 10

2 SP Refers to students based solely in a special unit and AD to adult returnees

3 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) rankings of pupil's home address.

4 RoN refers to Record of Needs, CSP to Co-ordinated Support Plan and IEP to Individualised Educational Programmes