
Exam results show improvement

Provisional results of this year's Key Stage 2 tests for 11-year-olds in East Sussex are continuing to improve across Maths, English and Science, and faster than the national rate of improvement, according to the latest figures from DCSF (Department for Children, Schools and Families, formerly DfES).

GCSE results have also improved for the seventh year running. The preliminary GCSE results announced on 23 August show a significant rise in standards across the county for the seventh consecutive year and the biggest rate of improvement ever.

Collated from the county's 27 mainstream secondary schools, the figures show that over 58% of pupils gained five or more A*-C grades compared with 55% last year. See www.eastsussex.gov.uk for more.

Getting ready for the big step up

Primary school children have been getting extra help as they prepare to make the big step up to secondary school this September. The Education Welfare Service worked with three primary schools last term in a pilot 'Get Ready' project to help pupils - and it has proved so successful that the scheme will be offered to all primary schools in the county next year.

'Get Ready' builds on work already being done in the county's primary schools through the 'Get Learning' project. During the 'Get Ready' pilot, education welfare officers visited each class once a week for seven weeks leading up to the end of term. They also held various sessions with the pupils that looked at fears about moving up, why

schooling is so important, how to combat peer pressure to truant, and how to deal with problems and worries.

For more about the Get Ready project and other initiatives from the East Sussex Education Welfare Service, email [Penny Lavan](mailto:Penny.Lavan@eastsussex.gov.uk), Principal Education Welfare Officer.

Building new schools

Building work on Rye's new primary school and children's centre has now begun with an official 'turf cutting' ceremony to celebrate.



The turf cutting ceremony at the new Rye primary school and Children's Centre.

The work, which will cost more than £6m, is expected to be completed by next summer so that the new school can open in September 2008.

Work has also begun on the rebuilding of Tideway School, Newhaven, which was destroyed by fire in 2005. Tideway is expected to reopen in October 2008. Meanwhile, work is planned to begin on Bexhill High School in 2008, with the aim of opening it for the new academic year in 2010.

Find out more about new building works at schools around the county by visiting www.eastsussex.gov.uk

Extended Schools

Extended schools provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of children, their families and the wider community. These can include:

- childcare
- adult education
- parenting support programmes
- community-based health and social care services,
- multi-agency behaviour support teams and after-school activities.

In East Sussex there's lots of excellent practice happening across primary, secondary and special schools. For example, **Hailsham Community College** is a Full Service Extended School , governed by a steering group of 28 people made up of teachers, governors, other professionals and local parents. It offers a wide range of extended services, each operated by different groups.

Transition from primary to secondary school is one important area in which Hailsham offers support to students and their families. As Claire Atherton, Assistant Principal, says, *"transition is one of the most energetic and productive of our groups, chaired by the educational psychologist for the Local Partnership for Children and its initial focus is transition from key stage 2 to 3. Gradually, this will broaden to include post-16 and pre-school transition. Of course, parents and carers also find transition challenging and stressful! We have therefore been working with primary schools meeting families and running support groups and this too will broaden to include year 7"*.

The transition group concentrates on learners who the primary schools have highlighted as being particularly vulnerable. These learners are grouped according to their vulnerability, and key agencies work with them and support them to ensure that they feel as comfortable as

possible at their new school this September. At Hailsham the group have made a DVD about the College, which is shown in lessons at feeder primary schools. They have also issued pocket size Pupil Passports for pupil mentors to access when new learners start in September, and organise visits to the College and links to what's in the new curriculum.

For more on this and other initiatives at Hailsham Community College, contact [Claire Atherton](#), Assistant Principal.

P.S. Hailsham recently won a commendation at the regional finals of the national Teaching Awards in the DfES Award for the Sustainable Schools category.

Does your school offer an extended schools service that you'd like to share with others across the children's services community in East Sussex ? Then why not publish it on Children's Trust Express? See ['How to Publish'](#) or contact us direct at ChildrensTrustExpress@eastsussex.gov.uk for more details.

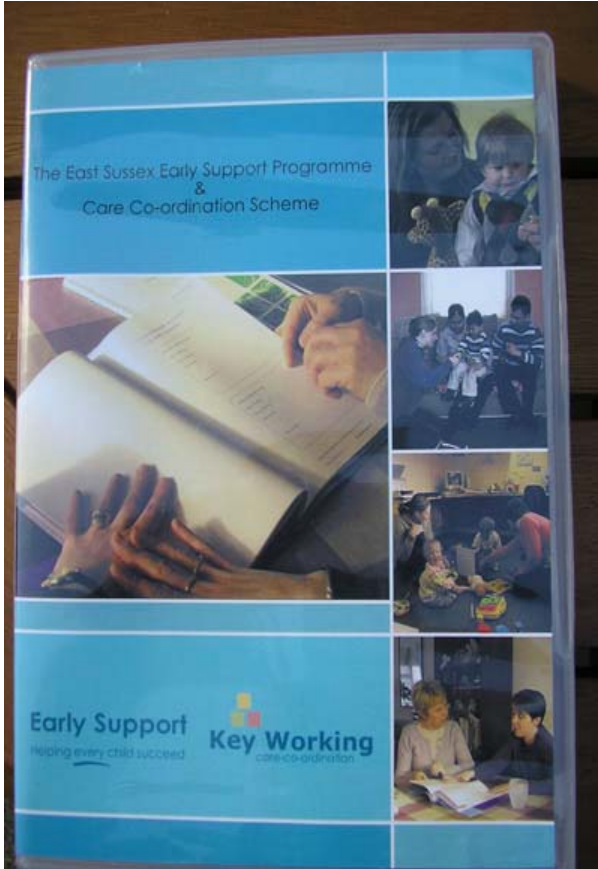
DVD launched to provide early support for families with disabled children

The East Sussex Early Support and Care Co-ordination Scheme have produced and launched a DVD that provides information for families who are new to the Scheme, and as a resource to support training for key workers.

In the film, parents talk about the impact of having a disabled child and how having a key worker has helped to co-ordinate services and provide them with emotional support.

Professionals are also shown with families using the resource materials provided by Early Support, and holding a family service planning meeting. Key workers talk about their role and talk about how Early

Support has helped to develop multi-agency working. Parents of older children also talk about life before key working - a powerful reminder of the challenges many families face.



The DVD was launched at an event in Eastbourne in June, attended by parents and professionals from across the South East region.



Liz Andrews, Director of Early Support, with one of the parents who made the video.

Early Support

Early Support offers a range of materials and training courses for everyone who supports young disabled children and their families, including parents and carers. East Sussex was an Early Support pathfinder and there are now 175 families supported by the scheme with 67 key workers and 2 designated care co-ordinators.

A version of the DVD has been produced using BSL (British Sign Language) and the narrative can be adapted to different languages for families whose first language is not English. Email **Val Hay**, Scheme Administrator for a copy or phone 01825 769578.