



Executive Summary

- Raw numbers as well as percentages, where appropriate, have now been included in report.
- Where available, national benchmarks for success rates have been provided.
- Two groups of students (those with access arrangements and those in receipt of a grant/bursary) have been included so we can monitor impact of these support measures.
- Male pass rate at A2, high grade rates at AS and A2 and retention in Year 2 have improved but there remains a strong focus on improving the performance of male students so that gender gaps are narrowed.
- Whilst some figures have fluctuated amongst BME students and students with disabilities, an examination of three year trends does not reveal any significant differences or causes for concern. Indeed, there is a lot to celebrate in the success of these groups of students.

Gender

There were more female students enrolled than males and, in Year 1, the percentage of male students decreased again. However, in 2013/14, the percentage of male students in Year 1 as at 1st October 2013 rose to 44.2%, the highest for 3 years. Retention for male students in Year 1 in May 2013 decreased again and the gap between the genders rose to 3.7%. Conversely, in Year 2, male retention was higher than female retention. In May 2014, the retention figures have significantly increased across the board and the gender gaps have narrowed. Year 1 males' retention this year is at 96.2% and Year 1 females' is 97.6%. In Year 2, males' retention this year is 98.6% whilst females' is 99.2%. Daytime and evening adults have also increased. The increases can be attributed to the implementation of the College's Retention Strategy and augur well for success rates. Progression to Year 2 in 2012-13 fell but, interestingly, progression to Year 1 for male students rose significantly from 1.7% to 4.2%. As competition for progression beyond QE increases, some students chose to review their study programmes as part of a strategy to improve their grades and chances for future success. The pass rate for AS male students dropped after the previous year's improvement whilst the females remained at an impressive level. Subsequently, the gap has increased again after it narrowed in the previous year. The high grade rate improved by 2% for male students at AS and the gender gap has narrowed but there is still work to do to close it further. The high grade rate for male students at A2 also improved but, again, the gender gap needs to close by improving the performance of our male students. In terms of success rates and national benchmarks produced by the Skills Funding Agency, QE's female success rate for all qualifications (16-18 years of age) was 89.4% in 2012/13 which was an increase from 88.2% in 2011/12. The average for Sixth Form Colleges was 88.1% and the national rate was 86.1%. QE's male success rate for all qualifications (16-18 years of age) was 84.6% in 2012/13 which was down from 85.7% in 2011/12 but better than 83.1% in 2010/11. The average for Sixth Form Colleges in 2012/13 was slightly above QE's rate at 84.9% but the national rate was below QE at 84.4%. Whilst some of the differences in QE's gender results can be explained by female students entering the College with higher GCSE grades (in 2012, average points score for females was 6.02 compared to males' of 5.80) *the improvement of male students' overall achievement and value added scores is a key area for the College and features strongly in the Quality Improvement Plan.* In terms of Destinations of Year 2 students in August 2013, it is interesting to note that the percentage of male students progressing to Higher Education was slightly higher than the percentage of female students for the first time. It will be interesting to observe any trends in destinations, especially with the increased attractiveness of Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Gender

Student Enrolment (as at 1st October 2012)

		Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Total
2012-13	Male	43.0%	43.0%	44.4%	26.5%	449	380	16	60	905
2012-13	Female	57.0%	57.0%	55.6%	73.5%	595	503	20	166	1284
2011-12	Male	43.9%	44.1%	44.4%	33.9%	466	376	20	97	959
2011-12	Female	56.1%	55.9%	55.6%	66.1%	596	476	25	189	1286
2010-11	Male	46.5%	40.2%	32.5%	32.4%	457	329	13	89	888
2010-11	Female	53.5%	59.8%	67.5%	67.6%	525	490	27	186	1228

Gender

Student Retention (as at 15th May 2013)

		Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Total
2012-13	Male	90.4%	97.6%	81.3%	63.3%	406	371	13	38	828
2012-13	Female	94.1%	96.4%	75.0%	76.5%	560	485	15	127	1187
2011-12	Male	91.0%	96.3%	75.0%	77.3%	424	362	15	75	876
2011-12	Female	92.3%	97.5%	80.0%	77.8%	550	464	20	147	1181
2010-11	Male	91.2%	97.6%	76.9%	68.5%	417	321	10	61	809
2010-11	Female	93.1%	97.8%	85.2%	73.1%	489	479	23	136	1127

**Gender
Student Progression from Year 1**

		Progression to Year 2	Progression to Year 1	Progression to Year 2	Progression to Year 1
2012-13	Male	83.3%	4.2%	338	17
2012-13	Female	90.2%	1.8%	505	10
2012-13	Total	87.3%	2.8%	843	27
2011-12	Male	86.6%	1.7%	367	7
2011-12	Female	91.1%	2.5%	501	14
2011-12	Total	89.1%	2.2%	868	21
2010-11	Male	88.5%	1.4%	369	6
2010-11	Female	94.1%	0.8%	460	4
2010-11	Total	91.5%	1.1%	829	10

**Gender
Pass Rate % (Raw Examination Results All Age exc. Gs)**

		AS	A2	G
2012-13	Male	86.1	98.3	100.0
2012-13	Female	93.0	99.0	99.2
2011-12	Male	89.0	98.1	100.0
2011-12	Female	92.7	99.1	100.0
2010-11	Male	86.1	99.0	100.0
2010-11	Female	93.0	99.1	100.0

Gender

High Grade Rate % (Raw Examination Results All Age exc. Gs)

		AS	A2	G
2012-13	Male	35.9	45.0	27.9
2012-13	Female	44.2	53.3	35.3
2011-12	Male	34.1	44.8	29.8
2011-12	Female	44.3	51.1	26.7
2010-11	Male	33.4	49.2	72.6
2010-11	Female	42.0	53.0	79.0

Gender

Destinations of Year 2 Students Summer Leavers * Aug 2013

		Education	Employment	HE/Deferred	Other	Education	Employment	HE/Deferred	Other	Total
2012-13	Male	8.1%	8.6%	67.3%	15.9%	30	32	249	59	370
2012-13	Female	11.1%	8.0%	66.6%	14.2%	54	39	323	69	485
2012-13	Total	9.8%		66.9%	15.0%	84	71	572	128	855
2011-12	Male	9.9%	9.1%	64.6%	16.3%	36	33	234	59	362
2011-12	Female	10.6%	8.4%	66.5%	14.5%	49	39	308	67	463
2011-12	Total	10.3%	8.7%	65.7%	15.3%	85	72	542	126	825
2010-11	Male	8.7%	8.4%	70.4%	12.5%	28	27	226	40	321
2010-11	Female	10.0%	7.1%	72.7%	10.2%	48	34	348	49	479
2010-11	Total	9.5%	7.6%	71.8%	11.1%	76	61	574	89	800

Ethnicity

The College continued to recruit more students in Year 1 (62, or 5.9%) from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds than the average of this group for the population of Darlington (4.5%) (2011 Census) This has been consistent for the last five years. Retention rates among BME 16-18 students remained higher than the College average at both AS and A2 level with very impressive figures of 98.4% and 100% respectively. Whilst the percentage of BME students progressing from Year 1 to Year 2 reduced, the percentage progressing to Year 1 increased from 2.1% to 6.6%. Actual numbers increased on both measures. Pass rates at GCSE and A2 Level were similar for students from BME backgrounds as their colleagues from White British backgrounds. The AS pass rate for BME decreased by 5% but was higher than the 2010/11 figure. This does need to be monitored. The high grade % was higher amongst BME students at A2 level and slightly lower at AS. Of course these are raw figures and do not take account of students' starting points. The percentage of students from BME backgrounds progressing to Higher Education decreased this year and was below the College average. However, progression to Further Education, including returning to QE increased. There is currently a strong College focus on all students receiving appropriate and effective progression guidance.

Ethnicity

Student Enrolment (as at 1st October 2012)

		Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Total
2012-13	BEM	5.9%	5.1%	8.3%	7.5%	62	45	3	17	127
2012-13	White - British	86.3%	86.2%	80.6%	81.4%	901	761	29	184	1875
2012-13	Not Known	7.8%	8.7%	11.1%	11.1%	81	77	4	25	187
2011-12	BEM	5.1%	5.9%	8.9%	8.0%	54	50	4	23	131
2011-12	White - British	84.7%	94.0%	80.0%	83.2%	900	801	36	238	1975
2011-12	Not Known	10.2%	0.1%	11.1%	8.7%	108	1	5	25	139
2010-11	BEM	5.1%	4.3%	2.5%	5.1%	50	35	1	14	100
2010-11	White - British	94.2%	95.1%	92.5%	87.3%	925	779	37	240	1981
2010-11	Not Known	0.7%	0.6%	5.0%	7.6%	7	5	2	21	35

Ethnicity

Student Retention (as at 15th May 2013)

		Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Total
2012-13	BEM	98.4%	100.0%	66.7%	76.5%	61	45	2	13	121
2012-13	White - British	92.5%	96.8%	82.8%	73.4%	833	737	24	135	1729
2012-13	Not Known	88.9%	96.1%	50.0%	68.0%	72	74	2	17	165
2011-12	BEM	87.0%	98.0%	100.0%	87.0%	47	49	4	20	120
2011-12	White - British	92.4%	96.9%	72.2%	75.6%	832	776	26	180	1814
2011-12	Not Known	88.0%	100.0%	100.0%	88.0%	95	1	5	22	123
2010-11	BEM	100.0%	97.1%	100.0%	78.6%	50	34	1	11	96
2010-11	White - British	91.8%	97.7%	81.1%	71.7%	849	761	30	172	1812
2010-11	Not Known	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	66.7%	7	5	2	14	28

Ethnicity

Student Progression from Year 1

		Progression to Year 2	Progression to Year 1	Completers Year 1	Progression to Year 2	Progression to Year 1
2012-13	BEM	86.9%	6.6%	61	53	4
2012-13	White - British	88.1%	2.2%	833	734	18
2012-13	Not Known	77.8%	6.9%	72	56	5
2012-13	Total	87.3%	2.8%	966	843	27
2011-12	BEM	89.4%	2.1%	47	42	1
2011-12	White - British	89.3%	2.2%	832	743	18
2011-12	Not Known	86.3%	2.1%	95	82	2
2011-12	Total	89.0%	2.2%	974	867	21
2010-11	BEM	94.0%	0.0%	50	47	0
2010-11	White - British	91.5%	1.1%	849	777	9
2010-11	Not Known	71.4%	14.3%	7	5	1
2010-11	Total	91.5%	1.1%	906	829	10

Ethnicity

Pass Rate % (Raw Examination Results All Age exc. Gs)

		AS	A2	G
2012-13	BEM	87.6	99.0	100.0
2012-13	White - British	90.8	98.7	99.4
2012-13	Not Known	84.0	98.2	100.0
2011-12	BEM	92.8	100.0	100.0
2011-12	White - British	91.2	98.6	100.0
2011-12	Not Known	90.4	100.0	100.0
2010-11	BEM	80.8	100.0	100.0
2010-11	White - British	90.7	99.0	100.0
2010-11	Not Known	100.0	100.0	100.0

Ethnicity

High Grade Rate % (Raw Examination Results All Age exc. Gs)

		AS	A2	G
2012-13	BEM	38.9	59.0	14.3
2012-13	White - British	41.5	50.2	35.1
2012-13	Not Known	32.5	40.2	36.8
2011-12	BEM	50.7	45.6	32.1
2011-12	White - British	40.3	48.4	27.5
2011-12	Not Known	30.6	100.0	25.0
2010-11	BEM	32.4	50.5	78.9
2010-11	White - British	37.8	51.1	75.7
2010-11	Not Known	37.8	25.0	100.0

Ethnicity

Destinations of Year 2 Students Summer Leavers * August 2013

		Education	Employment	HE/Deferred	Other	Education	Employment	HE/Deferred	Other	Total
2012-13	BEM	11.1%	0.0%	64.4%	24.4%	5	0	29	11	45
2012-13	White - British	9.9%	9.2%	66.8%	14.0%	73	68	492	103	736
2012-13	Not Known	8.1%	4.1%	68.9%	18.9%	6	3	51	14	74
2012-13	Total	9.8%	8.3%	66.9%	15.0%	84	71	572	128	855
2011-12	BEM	10.2%	12.2%	67.3%	10.2%	5	6	33	5	49
2011-12	White - British	10.3%	8.5%	65.5%	15.6%	80	66	508	121	775
2011-12	Not Known			100.0%				1		1
2011-12	Total	10.3%	8.7%	65.7%	15.3%	85	72	542	126	825
2010-11	BEM	11.1%	2.8%	66.7%	19.4%	4	1	24	7	36
2010-11	White - British	9.5%	7.8%	72.0%	10.8%	72	59	548	82	761
2010-11	Not Known	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	0.0%	0	1	2	0	3
2010-11	Total	9.5%	7.6%	71.8%	11.1%	76	61	574	89	800

Disability

The number of students joining the College with either a disability or requiring additional learning support naturally varies year by year, and in 2012/13 this group of students totalled 104 which represented 10 % of the new students. Retention for students with disabilities was lower than the College average in Year 1 and slightly above in Year 2. The % of students in this group progressing to Year 2 at 93% measures well against the QE average of 87.3% and a further 2.2% progressed to Year 1. Progression to Higher Education was higher for this group of students and an increase of over 5% on the previous year's figure. The Skills Funding Agency's publication of success rates for 16-18 year olds for all qualifications shows that the success rate for QE students with Learning Difficulties/Disabilities was 89.6% (up from 82.5% in 2010/11 and 87.1% in 2011/12). This is compared to a sixth form college rate of 84.7% and a national rate of 85.2%. These figures indicate that these potentially more vulnerable students had their needs met by the College.

Student Enrolment (as at 1st October 2012)

		Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Total
2012-13	Disability	10.0%	8.5%	11.1%	7.1%	104	75	4	16	199
2012-13	No Disability	90.0%	90.9%	86.1%	87.6%	940	803	31	198	1972
2012-13	Not Known	0.0%	0.6%	2.8%	5.3%	0	5	1	12	18
2011-12	Disability	8.3%	10.9%	2.2%	5.9%	88	93	1	17	199
2011-12	No Disability	91.2%	89.0%	88.9%	84.6%	969	758	40	242	2009
2011-12	Not Known	0.5%	0.1%	8.9%	9.4%	5	1	4	27	37
2010-11	Disability	11.2%	5.7%	10.0%	5.8%	110	47	4	16	177
2010-11	No Disability	88.7%	93.9%	67.5%	81.1%	871	769	27	223	1890
2010-11	Not Known	0.1%	0.4%	22.5%	13.1%	1	3	9	36	49

Disability

Student Retention (as at 15th May 2013)

		Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Year 1	Year 2	Daytime Adults	Evening	Total
2012-13	Disability	87.5%	98.7%	75.0%	62.5%	91	74	3	10	178
2012-13	No Disability	93.1%	96.8%	80.6%	74.2%	875	777	25	147	1824
2012-13	Not Known		100.0%	0.0%	66.7%	0	5	0	8	13
2011-12	Disability	94.3%	95.7%	100.0%	64.7%	83	89	1	11	184
2011-12	No Disability	91.4%	97.1%	77.5%	79.3%	886	736	31	192	1845
2011-12	Not Known	100.0%	100.0%	25.0%	70.4%	5	1	1	19	26
2010-11	Disability	90.9%	97.9%	125.0%	62.5%	100	46	5	10	161
2010-11	No Disability	92.4%	97.7%	77.8%	71.7%	805	751	21	160	1737
2010-11	Not Known	100.0%	100.0%	77.8%	75.0%	1	3	7	27	38

**Disability
Student Progression from Year 1**

		Progression to Year 2	Progression to Year 1	Completers Year 1	Progression to Year 2	Progression to Year 1
2012-13	Disability	93.4%	2.2%	91	85	2
2012-13	No Disability	86.6%	2.9%	875	758	25
2012-13	Not Known	NA	NA	0	0	0
2012-13	Total	87.3%	2.8%	966	843	27
2011-12	Disability	81.9%	0.0%	83	68	0
2011-12	No Disability	89.6%	1.8%	886	794	16
2011-12	Not Known	100.0%	0.0%	5	5	0
2011-12	Total	89.0%	1.6%	974	867	16
2010-11	Disability	91.0%	1.0%	100	91	1
2010-11	No Disability	91.6%	1.1%	805	737	9
2010-11	Not Known	0.0%	0.0%	1	0	0
2010-11	Total	91.4%	1.1%	906	828	10

Disability

Destinations of Year 2 Students Summer Leavers * Aug 2013

		Education	Employment	HE/Deferred	Other	Education	Employment	HE/Deferred	Other	Total
2012-13	Disability	12.2%	8.1%	70.3%	9.5%	9	6	52	7	74
2012-13	No Disability	9.5%	8.2%	66.8%	15.5%	74	64	518	120	776
2012-13	Not Known	20.0%	20.0%	40.0%	20.0%	1	1	2	1	5
2012-13	Total	9.8%	8.3%	66.9%	15.0%	84	71	572	128	855
2011-12	Disability	12.5%	9.1%	64.8%	13.6%	11	8	57	12	88
2011-12	No Disability	10.1%	8.7%	65.8%	15.5%	74	64	484	114	736
2011-12	Not Known	NA	NA	100.0%		NA	NA	1	NA	1
2011-12	Total	10.3%	8.7%	65.7%	15.3%	85	72	542	126	825
2010-11	Disability	15.2%	6.5%	65.2%	13.0%	7	3	30	6	46
2010-11	No Disability	9.2%	7.5%	72.3%	11.1%	69	56	543	83	751
2010-11	Not Known	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0	2	1	0	3
2010-11	Total	9.5%	7.6%	71.8%	11.1%	76	61	574	89	800

Access Arrangements

This is the first time we have reported on this group of learners who, for various needs, have special arrangements put in place so they have equal opportunities to access learning and to perform in examinations. We have included the data for this group of learners to help the College assess the impact of these arrangements. Over time, trends will be looked at as it is difficult to draw conclusions after one year's worth of data. At the moment, however, it is satisfying to note that there were not any significant differences in the data between students with access arrangements and students who did not have such arrangements in 2012/13.

**Access Arrangements
Student Progression from Year 1**

		Progression to Year 2	Progression to Year 1	Completers Year 1	Progression to Year 2	Progression to Year 1
2012-13	Access Arrangements	87.5%	6.3%	48	42	3
2012-13	No Arrangements	87.3%	2.6%	918	801	24
2012-13	Total	87.3%	2.8%			
2011-12	Access Arrangements					
2011-12	No Arrangements					
2011-12	Total					
2010-11	Access Arrangements					
2010-11	No Arrangements					
2010-11	Total					

**Access Arrangements
Pass Rate % (Raw Examination Results All Age exc. Gs)**

		AS	A2	G
	Access			
2012-13	Arrangements	91.1	97.5	100.0
2012-13	No Arrangements	90.1	98.8	99.4
2011-12	Access Arrangements			
2011-12	No Arrangements			
2010-11	Access Arrangements			
2010-11	No Arrangements			

Grant/Bursary

This is another category which we have introduced into this KPI report. Students from families on low incomes or who fall into certain categories such as being in care are eligible to receive financial support from the College. It will be of particular interest to monitor enrolment, retention and progress of these students to assess the impact of the measures the College is taking to try to remove financial barriers to education. Again, trends over time will need to be looked at. At the moment, the most striking statistic is the difference in retention % in Year 1 between students who received a grant/bursary (75.3%) and those who did not (95.9%). However, in 2013/14, the retention figure has dramatically increased to close to 100% for this group of students. The College's drive to improve retention of all students appears to have been particularly effective for this group.

