

ECC Report September 2018

Essex celebrates its GCSE results

Thousands of pupils in Essex are celebrating after collecting their GCSE results.

The 2018 results are the second year when subjects are graded under the new 9 to 1 scale – with English literature, English language and Mathematics having changed in 2017. Twenty more subjects changed this year with the remaining subjects following in 2019.

Provisional figures released by Essex County Council suggest similar outcomes to last year's results with 65% achieving at least level 4 (a pass at grade C under the old system and regarded by the Department for Education as a standard pass) in English and Maths and 42% achieving level 5 pass in English and Maths. Essex provisional results are above the 2017 national figures.

The new grading scales have been introduced to signal the GCSE reform and demonstrate the more challenging nature of the exam content. This measure aims to encourage schools to teach a broad curriculum.

Adult learners who attend ACL Essex are celebrating with overall pass rates of 98%. 87% of those who took an English GCSE, 71% of those who took mathematics GCSE and 83% of those who took Biology GCSE achieved the high grades of 9-4.

New GCSE courses at ACL will commence in September. English and maths GCSEs are free to those people who do not currently hold a grade (A*-C) in the subject already. Those interested should call 0345 603 7635.

30:30 challenge by Active Essex

A CAMPAIGN encouraging residents to get active has inspired people to take part in regular sport and exercise, it has been revealed.

More than 800 participants signed up for the first 30:30 challenge by Active Essex, completing 30 minutes of exercise a day for 30 days throughout June.

A survey of participants revealed 72 per cent are now taking part in more regular exercise because of the initiative.

Currently, one in five Essex residents do not take part in any physical activity or sport, with levels of inactivity.

Jenni Anderson, a trustee of the Active Essex Foundation, said: “A strong commitment to regular physical activity is absolutely essential in order to maintain positive health and wellbeing.

“It doesn’t have to be expensive, time consuming or even hard work to engage with sport and physical activity. In fact, there are many activities that are free and accessible to everybody.”

The survey also revealed seven out of ten participants have experienced benefits to their mental wellbeing.

For more information about the Active Essex Foundation, visit Activeessexfoundation.org or 3030essex.com

Vital improvements to Junction 8 of the M11 near Stansted

Essex Highways has published plans to improve Junction 8 of the M11 and the nearby A120/A1250 Dunmow Road junction to address worsening congestion and capacity issues currently experienced in the area at peak times, which is very often a pinch point for residents and businesses using the M11, A120 and London Stansted Airport. This upgrade will improve access to key routes, reduce congestion and improve capacity on the exit slip roads. All of these improvements are done with a look ahead to supporting future housing, employment and business developments.

The M11 and A120 are important north-south and east-west routes respectively for the region, connecting Essex to the rest of the country and providing access to one of the region’s major airports at M11 Junction 8.

However, Junction 8 of the M11 and the A120/A1250 Dunmow Road roundabout suffer from congestion and are severely lacking capacity at peak times. These issues are likely to worsen in future because of additional traffic from planned developments in the north of Bishop’s Stortford, as well as local growth planned in east Hertfordshire and Uttlesford.

The proposals, which include adding extra lanes to the M11 Junction 8 slip roads and replacing the A120/A1250 Dunmow Road roundabout with a signalised junction, will enhance traffic movement, support local plan delivery and future investment.

Following a successful bid in 2017 for the Department for Transport’s National Productivity Investment Fund, Essex Highways can now to move forward with our plans to improve Junction 8 of the M11 and A120 West. It is expected that advance works will begin this winter, with the full construction phase starting in Spring 2019 and lasting around two years.

Before construction starts, Essex Highways will contact local groups, residents and businesses directly affected by the scheme proposals. Information will also be published on a dedicated M11 Junction 8 page on the Essex County Council website www.essex.gov.uk/m11junction8. This will include work phases and plans for traffic management as details become available.

More than 3,000 school places created in Essex in time

Thousands of pupils have gone back to school to some much improved classrooms, thanks to Essex County Council's ambitious plans to meet growing demand for school places across the county.

The council is investing £315million in creating new school places, with £75 million of this being spent on completing new schools and expansion projects in time for the start of the 2018/19 academic year.

2,325 primary places and 1,110 secondary places have been created across several sites in Essex, with 510 further places available following the completion of two more projects in Chigwell and Hockley later in 2018.

Ongoing investment in both mainstream and special school places reiterates the council's commitment to ensuring the educational needs of all pupils remain a top priority and that the current and future needs of the county's growing population can be met.

Because of this investment Essex County Council has been able to offer so many parents their top preference of school for their child.

Each project completed this year has been carefully selected according to relevant demand for places which will continue moving forward.

The council's intentions for the creation of new school places across the county are set out in its ten-year plan - [Meeting the demand for school places in Essex 2018 - 2027](#) – which provides the background to school place planning, including the anticipated demand for places in each district, as well as likely solutions.

- Essex County Council conducts robust feasibility studies and works closely with partners, including schools, district/borough councils and housing providers, to assess demand and determine where new school places should be created.
- The council's £315million investment includes up to £85million for the creation of more than 400 new special school places across Essex - £42million of which has been allocated by the Essex Schools Forum and £43million of Essex County Council capital funding.

School projects completed in time for the 2018 Autumn term:

- New 420-place primary school, Newhall, Harlow
- New 210-place primary school, Magna Carta Primary Academy, Stansted Mountfitchet
- New 420-place primary school and Early Years building, Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford (to operate as county's first all through school from September 2019)
- Expansion of Home Farm Primary School, Colchester (210 new places)
- Expansion of Stanway Fiveways Primary School, Colchester (315 new places)
- Expansion of Stanway Primary School, Colchester (140 new places)
- Expansion of St. Michael's Primary School, Colchester (210 new places)
- Expansion of Roding Valley High School, Loughton (150 new places)
- Expansion of Elsenham Primary School (210 new places)
- Expansion of Moulsham High School, Chelmsford (240 new places)
- Expansion of Clavering Primary School, Saffron Walden (35 new places)
- Expansion of Philip Morant School, Colchester (300 new places)
- Expansion of Stanway High School, Colchester (270 new places)
- Expansion of The Fitzwimarc, Rayleigh (150 new places)
- Expansion of Stebbing Primary School, Dunmow (35 new places)
- Expansion of Roseacres Primary School, Takeley (60 new places)
- Expansion of Monkwick Junior School, Colchester (60 new places)

School projects scheduled to be completed later in 2018:

- Expansion of West Hatch High School, Chigwell (300 new places)
- Expansion of Westerings Primary Academy, Hockley (210 new places)

Projects being delivered for the 2019/20 academic year:

- New 900-place secondary school, Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford (to operate as county's first all through school from September 2019)
- New 900-place secondary school, Colchester – Paxman Avenue (former Alderman Blaxill site)
- Relocation and expansion of Lexden Springs School, Colchester (80 new places, plus 30 boarding places)
- Expansion of Oak View School, Loughton (24 new places)

2019 Secondary School Admissions Open

As schools across Essex start their autumn term parents of Y6 pupils are being reminded that it will soon be time to apply for their child's September 2019 secondary school place.

From 12 September 2018 parents and carers can apply online for their child's Year 7

secondary school place. Applications must be made by the national closing date of 31 October 2018.

Applications can be made at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions with the website also holding information on different schools and their admissions criteria.

Essex County Council strongly recommends parents to visit their preferred schools, carefully consider each school's admissions criteria and use all six preferences on the admissions application.

The 31 October deadline for applications is a national deadline and applications made after this are considered once all on-time applications have been determined. Applying late could reduce the chance of a child being offered a place at their preferred school.

A120 New Roundabout Works

Notes attached.

Local Highway Panel

An announcement will be made later this month in the way all Local Highway Panels operate across Essex. Although not yet confirmed the changes are thought to include a new Direct Delivery Team, who will deal with all minor schemes not picked up by the normal Supply Chain that had been left in the pipeline as a result; and the ability to Parish Council to pay for highway improvements in their areas, which would otherwise take much longer time to be delivered and by-pass the normal process.

