

[Richard Crane, Durham County Council's head of education and skills, sits in front of a map of County Durham]

Richard Crane: "Hi I'm Richard Crane and I'm head of education and skills for County Durham.

I'd like to say a massive congratulations to all young learners across County Durham who received some form of examination result over the summer.

In terms of our key focus at County Durham it's all about making sure that the needs of young learners are met and supporting and challenging schools in order to be able to do that.

And that's what the education service for County Durham does throughout the course of the academic year.

I'm now going to talk you through some of the key performance indicators from the summer examinations.

So first up, at A level we were delighted with the performance of our students across the county. Our average grade was a B- compared to the national average of a C+, and more students than ever before got top grades and got into their first choice of university.

Moving on to GCSE, we were delighted to have maintained and sustained our strong performance from the previous academic year, this year, but we were particularly pleased with the outcomes for our disadvantaged students which showed an improvement on last year's results.

Twenty of our 31 secondary schools sustained or improved upon last year's outcomes and 17 of these improving upon major headline figures.

In terms of early years we're meeting or exceeding national average standards in many areas including phonics.

At Key Stage two we're meeting or exceeding the national average standard for writing, maths, grammar, punctuation and spelling.

In terms of our key priorities moving forward it's obviously to focus on the needs of all young learners across County Durham, to improve our reading outcomes at Key Stage Two, to continue to improve our outcomes at Key Stage Four, specifically those for disadvantaged students, and to build on the strong outcomes of post-16.

I'd like to say a massive thank you to all parents, carers and teachers who've supported young people through the examinations in the summer and I'd like to wish everyone all the very best for a new academic year."

[Text on screen: Find out more www.durham.gov.uk/education]