**School Leavers**

The number of school leavers in the borough increased by 7% between 2019/20 and 2020/21 to a high of 2,609. This is the same as it was in 2015/16 and the highest number of leavers of the years presented below.

|  | Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon |
| --- | --- |
| 2013/14 | 2,546 |
| 2014/15 | 2,393 |
| 2015/16 | 2,609 |
| 2016/17 | 2,554 |
| 2017/18 | 2,534 |
| 2018/19 | 2,520 |
| 2019/20 | 2,428 |
| 2020/21 | 2,609 |

*Table 1: Number of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

*Figure 1: Number of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

The school leavers survey provides information on the achievements of school leavers at both A-level and GCSE. The data refers to the home residence of pupils. In 2020/21 almost 51% of school leavers in the borough achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent). This was almost 10% below the Northern Ireland figure of 60.5% and a decrease on 2019/20 when 52.8% of school leavers in the borough achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent).

In 2020/21 over 90% of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough achieved at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent). While this remains lower than the Northern Ireland figure of 92.1%, it was the highest in the borough in the last eight years and an increase of 10.6 percentage points on 2017/18 figures.

|  | Achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent) | | Achieved at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ABC** | **NI** | **ABC** | **NI** |
| 2013/14 | 48.7% | 55.7% | 76.3% | 78.6% |
| 2014/15 | 52.2% | 57.7% | 81.1% | 81.1% |
| 2015/16 | 49.1% | 57.3% | 78.2% | 81.7% |
| 2016/17 | 52.3% | 58.5% | 81.4% | 83.8% |
| 2017/18 | 49.0% | 56.7% | 79.9% | 85.2% |
| 2018/19 | 46.9% | 55.6% | 82.5% | 86.4% |
| 2019/20 | 52.8% | 59.8% | 88.9% | 91.3% |
| 2020/21 | 50.7% | 60.5% | 90.5% | 92.1% |

*Table 2: School leaver achievements in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

*Figure 2: School leavers achieving 2+ A-levels (or equivalent) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

*Figure 3: School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

GCSE achievement figures are also available for those that include GCSE English and GCSE Maths. These results can further be broken down by those school leavers who were entitled to free school meals (FSME) and those who were not entitled to free school meals (Non-FSME).

Non-FSME have higher percentages of school leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths over the last eight years in both the borough and Northern Ireland overall. In 2020/21 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, around eight in every ten (79.8%) of non-FSME school leavers achieved at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths compared to 54.7% of FSME school leavers. These figures were both lower than Northern Ireland overall where achievement was 83.8% for non-FSME and 59.8% for FSME.

|  | Achieved at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent)  including GCSE English and GCSE Maths | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon** | | | **Northern Ireland** | | |
| **Non-FSME** | **FSME** | **Overall** | **Non-FSME** | **FSME** | **Overall** |
| 2013/14 | 67.8% | 39.3% | 63.4% | 69.7% | 34.9% | 63.5% |
| 2014/15 | 74.9% | 43.4% | 68.1% | 73.7% | 41.3% | 66.0% |
| 2015/16 | 74.1% | 43.6% | 66.8% | 75.8% | 44.8% | 67.7% |
| 2016/17 | 76.8% | 47.2% | 70.1% | 77.4% | 47.5% | 69.6% |
| 2017/18 | 75.2% | 44.0% | 67.2% | 78.1% | 48.6% | 70.6% |
| 2018/19 | 74.6% | 48.7% | 68.3% | 78.5% | 49.5% | 70.8% |
| 2019/20 | 80.7% | 51.7% | 74.6% | 83.4% | 55.7% | 76.2% |
| 2020/21 | 79.8% | 54.7% | 74.4% | 83.8% | 59.8% | 77.7% |

*Table 3: School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by free school meal entitlement in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

*Figure 4: School leavers achieving at least 5 GCSE’s grades A\* - C (or equivalent) including GCSE English and GCSE Maths by free school meal entitlement in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

In 2020/21, 41.7% of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough entered Higher Education Institutions while 37.3% continued on to Institutes of Further Education. While the proportion of those entering further education institutes has fallen by almost 5% since 2019/20, the proportion entering higher education institutions has increased by 2 percentage points. The proportion entering employment has increased significantly since 2019/20 and at 7.2% in 2020/21, this is the highest it has been of the years presented below. The proportion entering unemployment / unknown is the lowest it has been at 3.0% while almost 11% of school leavers in the borough continued onto training.

|  | Higher Education | Further Education | Employment | Training | Unemployed / Unknown |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2013/14 | 40.0% | 43.9% | 3.9% | 8.9% | 3.3% |
| 2014/15 | 37.6% | 45.6% | 5.9% | 7.5% | 3.3% |
| 2015/16 | 36.9% | 43.1% | 5.7% | 9.4% | 4.8% |
| 2016/17 | 39.2% | 41.0% | 6.5% | 9.2% | 4.1% |
| 2017/18 | 39.8% | 40.9% | 5.6% | 10.3% | 3.4% |
| 2018/19 | 35.9% | 41.5% | 6.3% | 12.4% | 3.9% |
| 2019/20 | 39.7% | 42.1% | 4.9% | 9.8% | 3.5% |
| 2020/21 | 41.7% | 37.3% | 7.2% | 10.8% | 3.0% |

*Table 4: Destination of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

*Figure 5: Destination of school leavers in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, the proportions entering Higher Education Institutes is broadly similar to those entering Institutes of Further Education. However, in Northern Ireland overall, the proportion of school leavers entering Higher Education Institutes is much higher than those entering Further Education Institutes (47.9% and 27% respectively in 2020/21).

|  | Higher Education | Further Education | Employment | Training | Unemployed / Unknown |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2013/14 | 41.8% | 35.4% | 6.9% | 10.4% | 5.5% |
| 2014/15 | 42.3% | 35.0% | 8.4% | 9.8% | 4.5% |
| 2015/16 | 42.9% | 34.4% | 8.9% | 9.7% | 4.2% |
| 2016/17 | 43.3% | 34.0% | 8.8% | 9.8% | 4.0% |
| 2017/18 | 43.1% | 33.5% | 9.7% | 9.9% | 3.8% |
| 2018/19 | 42.0% | 32.9% | 6.3% | 12.4% | 3.9% |
| 2019/20 | 47.9% | 29.2% | 8.7% | 9.5% | 4.7% |
| 2020/21 | 47.9% | 27.0% | 10.6% | 10.6% | 4.0% |

*Table 5: Destination of school leavers in Northern Ireland 2013/14 to 2020/21. Source: Northern Ireland School Leavers Survey, Department of Education.*

Further information on school leavers can be found via the following link:

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-leavers>