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Students in Peterborough have received their Key Stage 4 GCSE results after sitting exams earlier this summer.

Many more subjects have now adopted more difficult content as well as changing the method of marking and recording results.

The new GCSE exams, as with those in English and mathematics last year, are now graded from 9 (top) to 1 (bottom) with a grade 4 accepted as a Standard pass (equivalent to the former grade C) and a grade 5 accepted as a Good pass.

Over 2,200 students sat the exams in schools across Peterborough this year.

With a new grading system, a change to the examination system and more difficult exams, it is not possible to compare this set of results with last year's in all subjects.

However, it is encouraging that similar proportions of students have achieved a pass to those in the last two years, with a slight increase in the numbers doing well in mathematics.

In Peterborough, 69.1% of students achieved at least a grade 4 in English, with 51.8% achieving at least a grade 5. In maths, 63.9% of students achieved a grade 4 or above, with 43.1% achieving at least a grade 5.

The proportion of students achieving a grade 4 or above in both English and mathematics in Peterborough was 57.1%, with 36.4% achieving a grade 5 or better. National outcomes are not yet available as a comparison.

Two schools have returned GCSE results for the first time this year. City of Peterborough Academy and the Greater Peterborough UTC (a free school and a University Technical College) both directly accountable to the Department for Education.

When comparing outcomes in those schools who also had results last year, it is encouraging to note an improvement of 0.5% in English outcomes to 70.6%, an improvement of 3.3% in mathematics outcomes to 65.3% and of 3.0% in outcomes for English and mathematics combined to 58.7%.

Councillor Lynne Ayres, Peterborough City Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "First of all, I would like to say a big well done to every young person across Peterborough who has collected their exam results, for many it will be a welcome culmination of many months of hard work. I would also like to thank teachers, leaders and governors for their hard work and support.

"GCSEs are an important part of a young person's education and I'd like to wish all students the very best for the future as they look ahead and make decisions about their next steps.

"At a time when the exams are getting harder and it is more difficult to achieve higher grades, this is a good achievement by Peterborough schools.

"Until we have received results from all other local authorities in October 2018 it is not possible to speculate as to how these results compare or what Peterborough's national ranking will be."