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For the second year running Peterborough is above the national average for the number of pupils achieving A-level passes.

The overall pass rate climbed slightly to 98.3 per cent – an improvement of 0.1 per cent on last year's results. The national average pass rate stands the same as last year at 98.1 per cent.

About 1,000 young people sat A or AS levels this summer at secondary schools across Peterborough.

Councillor John Holdich, leader of the council and cabinet member for education, skills and university, said: "Well done to all the students who collected their exam results this morning. Through their hard work we are once again above the national average for the overall A-level pass rate which is fantastic.

"A-levels open up many doors for young people, whether they are remaining in education or training or entering the world of work. I'd like to wish all students the very best for the future as they look ahead and make more decisions about work and further studies.

"Today's results are a further example of the huge strides being made in improving education in Peterborough. We are never complacent, however, and will continue to work hard with headteachers to make sure our performance continues to improve."

Gary Perkins, head of school improvement for Peterborough City Council, said: "We have been closing the gap on the national average for a number of years so it's great for A-level results to continue to improve and remain above it. This is thanks to the dedication of the city's young people, teachers and all school staff as well as the improvements that have been made across Peterborough schools.

"Regardless of the grades they achieve, it's important young people remember there is plenty of support and advice available, whether they decide to go straight in to employment or continue learning at college or university.

"Making decisions on what training, education and ultimately which career to pursue can be daunting for young people. Our team of experts provide support and impartial advice to help young people make the best decision for their future."

Young people who are unsure of their next steps following their results can get help and advice from the Youth Access Hub at City College Peterborough on Brook Street.

In the hub young people can speak to careers advisers from the council, City College Peterborough and a range of other providers about their options. Advice is available on searching for jobs, training opportunities or further education.

The hub is open Monday to Friday throughout August from 1pm to 4.30pm (3pm Tuesdays and Thursdays). Young people can drop in or call (01733) 864500 to book an appointment or (01733) 293897 during the hub's opening hours.

If you're ready to enter the world of work or study for an apprenticeship, then a good place to start is the website for young people managed by The Skills Service www.standoutskills.co.uk (<http://www.standoutskills.co.uk>).

You can find out about the many opportunities available, as well as volunteering roles and post-16 study options.