

## City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee(s):</b> Education Board	<b>Dated:</b> 21/01/2025
<b>Subject:</b>  <b>Key Stage 4 Outcomes Analysis: Performance of Sole-Sponsored Academies in the City of London Academies Trust</b>	<b>Public report:</b>  For Information
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</li> </ul>	<b>Providing Excellent Services</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
<b>Report author:</b>	Dr Scott Caizley

### Summary

This report examines the Key Stage 4 (KS4) results for the six sole-sponsored academies within the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT), which operate across three Local Authority areas within Inner London. Utilising newly published data from the Department for Education (DfE), the analysis provides insights into pupil attainment and achievement at the school, local authority and national levels. The findings aim to inform strategic discussions around educational impact, identify trends in performance, and support supplementary targeted improvement initiatives within the Trust.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The validated GCSE results for Summer 2024 have now been published, following the conclusion of exams in June. These results provide a definitive view of pupil attainment at Key Stage 4 across England.
2. The grading process for Summer 2024 adhered to pre-pandemic standards, consistent with the approach used in 2023. Nationally, GCSE results for 2024 are broadly in line with those from 2023, reflecting stable attainment levels under established grading frameworks.

### **Current Position**

3. The City of London Corporation is the sole sponsor of the City of London Academies Trust.
4. Analysing the Trust schools' performance on a local authority basis aligns with the requirements of the Sponsorship Agreement, enabling a detailed examination of performance, risks, and issues within the context of local educational landscapes.
5. This approach provides further insights into how schools are performing relative to their local and national peers, identifying strengths and areas for improvement while supporting a contextual understanding of challenges and opportunities specific to each geographical area.
6. By facilitating data-driven discussions during scrutiny meetings and with the Chief Executive Officer of the Trust, the Sponsor can ensure performance evaluations are evidence-based and contribute meaningfully to continuous improvement.
7. Additionally, this analysis equips the Sponsor to present a nuanced view of school performance to the Education Board, and supports strategic planning for growth, ensuring that the Trust's expansion aligns with the highest standards. Finally, it ensures compliance with agreed timelines, enabling the Strategic Director of Education and Skills to report effectively to the January Education Board meeting as highlighted in the current Sponsorship Agreement.
8. The KS4 results below include both the Average Attainment 8 scores and the percentage of pupils achieving grade 5 or higher in English and Maths. The data is presented for each school and organised by the respective Local Authority area.
9. Attainment 8 is used in this analysis as it provides a clear, absolute measure of student performance across a broad range of subjects, offering transparency and comparability without adjustments for prior attainment. Unlike Progress 8, which evaluates progress relative to national averages and relies on complex calculations tied to KS2 starting points, Attainment 8 reflects straightforward outcomes that are easier to interpret and communicate. This makes it particularly useful for identifying subject-specific strengths and areas for improvement, while avoiding distortions or methodological adjustments like capping extreme scores. By focusing on Attainment 8, the analysis delivers a direct, unaltered view of school performance.

## KS4 Performance Analysis by Local Authority

### Southwark

- **Local Authority Average Attainment 8 Score:** 51.9%
- **Local Authority % Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 56%
- **City of London Academy Southwark:**
  - **Average Attainment 8 Score:** 53.4% (Above LA Average: +1.5%; Above National Average: +7.5%)
  - **% Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 62.6% (Above LA Average: +6.6%; Above National Average: +16.7%)

**Overall LA Analysis:** Southwark is performing above both local and national averages, demonstrating strong outcomes, particularly in English and Maths achievement.

### Hackney

- **Local Authority Average Attainment 8 Score:** 51.1%
- **Local Authority % Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 53.4%
- **City of London Academy Shoreditch Park:**
  - **Average Attainment 8 Score:** 58.9% (Above LA Average: +7.8%; Above National Average: +13%)
  - **% Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 69.3% (Above LA Average: +15.9%; Above National Average: +23.4%)
- **City Academy Hackney:**
  - **Average Attainment 8 Score:** 53.1% (Above LA Average: +2%; Above National Average: +7.2%)
  - **% Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 58.7% (Above LA Average: +5.3%; Above National Average: +12.8%)

**Overall LA Analysis:** Both academies outperform local and national averages, with City of London Academy Shoreditch Park showing particularly strong results.

### Islington

- **Local Authority Average Attainment 8 Score:** 48%
- **Local Authority % Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 51.3%
- **City of London Academy Highbury Grove:**
  - **Average Attainment 8 Score:** 47.2% (Below LA Average: -0.8%; Above National Average: +1.3%)
  - **% Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 51.6% (Above LA Average: +0.3%; Above National Average: +5.7%)
- **City of London Academy Islington:**
  - **Average Attainment 8 Score:** 45.5% (Below LA Average: -2.5%; Below National Average: -0.4%)
  - **% Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 37.5% (Below LA Average: -13.8%; Below National Average: -8.4%)
- **City of London Academy Highgate Hill:**
  - **Average Attainment 8 Score:** (Not provided)
  - **% Achieving Grades 5 in English and Maths:** 45.5% (Below LA Average: -5.8%; Below National Average: -0.4%)

**Overall LA Analysis:** Performance in Islington highlights areas of potential and opportunity. City of London Academy Highbury Grove performs close to local averages, demonstrating a good foundation to build upon. The other two academies present opportunities for targeted support and strategic interventions to enhance attainment and improve outcomes.

### **Key Observations Across Local Authorities**

10. City of London Academy Southwark and City of London Academy Shoreditch Park demonstrate exceptional performance, exceeding both local and national benchmarks significantly.
11. Islington academies, particularly City of London Academy Islington and Highgate Hill, could benefit further from focused intervention to enhance outcomes, especially in English and Maths.
12. All CoLAT schools exceed national averages for Attainment 8, with the exception of City of London Academy Islington, which is marginally below.

### **Options**

13. N/A

### **Proposals**

14. N/A

### **Key Data**

15. The key data is included in this report. For those interested in exploring the full statistical release by the DfE, further details can be accessed at [Search for schools, colleges and multi-academy trusts - Compare school and college performance data in England - GOV.UK](#)

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

Strategic implications – this work is aligned with and will contribute to the outcomes of the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan 2024-29, specifically ‘Providing Excellent Services’.

Financial implications- none

Resource implications – none

Legal implications – none

Risk implications – none

Equalities implications – In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010, this report has been developed with consideration of its potential impact on people protected by equality legislation, including age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, and pregnancy and maternity. The analysis of KS4 performance across the Trust’s schools, broken down by Local Authority, aims to

ensure that all pupils, regardless of their background or protected characteristics, are supported to achieve the best outcomes. Any identified disparities in performance, particularly across different local authority areas, will be carefully considered, with a focus on providing targeted support where it is most needed to address inequality. Should an Equality Impact Assessment be required, this will be undertaken to ensure that any decisions or interventions are fully compliant with equality legislation and are designed to promote fair access to educational opportunities for all pupils.

Climate implications – none

Security implications – none

## **Conclusion**

16. This report highlights the key findings from the analysis of KS4 results for the six sole-sponsored academies within the City of London Academies Trust, covering performance across three Local Authority areas within inner London. The data reveals both areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, with particular attention given to variations in attainment across schools and local contexts. The insights gained from this analysis will help inform targeted interventions and strategic planning to support continued educational improvement within the Trust. By aligning performance monitoring with local authority areas, the Trust can better address the specific needs of its diverse student population, ensuring that all pupils are provided with the support they need to achieve their full potential.

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