

GCSE results: a day to congratulate students and teachers but also to address attainment gap



24 August 2023

Reacting to today's GCSE results, Vix Lowthion, Green Party Lifelong Education spokesperson, said:

"Many students will rightly be proud of the GCSE, BTEC and T-Levels grades they have got today – outcomes achieved through hard work and excellent teaching. It's a day to congratulate both students and teachers.

"However, in education as in every other policy area, levelling up is just a slogan. The attainment gap between students from more affluent backgrounds and those from disadvantaged situations has grown ever wider under this Conservative government.

"We know that growing levels of poverty impact on being able to eat nutritious food, the quality of housing and having access to books and the internet which all have negative consequences on opportunities for child development and learning. The attainment of disadvantaged pupils is calculated to be 1.5 years behind that of their non-disadvantaged peers by the end of secondary school.

"We must address the country's chronic inequality by increasing taxes on the super-rich to raise the funds needed to boost key public services like health and education and to bring down the cost of living for the poorest in society through programmes like mass home insulation."

"The Green Party also believes that a move towards continuous assessment and away from a system of high stakes exams is critical to closing the attainment gap."

ENDS

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact the Press Office press@greenparty.org.uk 0203 691 9401

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Greens repeat call for 10:1 pay ratio to help create fairer greener country



22 August 2023

The Green Party has today repeated a call for a 10:1 pay ratio to ensure that the highest paid individuals in an organisation receive no more than ten times the amount of the lowest paid.

The call comes as this year's annual report by the High Pay Centre reveals that median pay for FTSE 100 CEOs increased by half a million pounds, from £3.41m to £3.91m between 2021 and 2022. Median FTSE CEO pay is now 118 times that of the median UK full-time worker [1].

Co-leader of the Green Party, Adrian Ramsay, said:

"The UK's leading fat cat bosses are raking in obscene levels of pay while many of their workers struggle to make ends meet in a cost of living crisis. That's why the Green Party is repeating a call for a 10:1 pay ratio, mandated by law, to ensure that the highest paid individuals in an organisation receive no more than ten times the amount of the lowest paid.

"Such a policy would drive an uplift in wages for the lowest paid workers while addressing rampant and ever-widening inequality.

"We also know it is the wealthiest that are having a hugely disproportionate impact on the climate crisis. The world's richest 1% are responsible for 15% of carbon emissions, nearly twice as much as the poorest 50% [2]. It is clear that a 10:1 pay ratio would help create a fairer and greener country."

Notes

1. <https://highpaycentre.org/ftse-100-ceos-get-half-a-million-pound-pay-rise/>

2. <https://news.sky.com/story/wealthiest-1-polluter-elite-are-driving-global-carbon-emissions-says-new-report-12274350>

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Green Party applauds students

receiving their A level results



17 August 2023

Responding to today's A Level results, Vix Lowthion, Green Party Lifelong Education spokesperson, said:

"All students collecting their results today should be applauded for their unique achievements – this Class of 2023 never sat their formal GCSE exams, and so congratulations are in order for all staff and students who have worked hard to get their grades.

"Yet the disadvantage gap at A Level remains too wide, with poorer pupils continuing to lag behind the most privileged. At current rates of progress this gap will never close. Class sizes in state schools in England are the highest since records began – and this Conservative government has no policies, plans or funding proposals to address this.

"In addition to the challenges in schools, students who are planning to take the next steps and go to university face the significant costs of tuition fees and also possible continued disruption due to industrial action as a consequence of the refusal of some universities to negotiate a resolution with lecturers.

"Young people achieving today are owed a lot more support throughout their future than they have been granted by this government in the last 13 years.

"The Green Party remains committed to abolishing tuition fees for university students, and to properly funding education at school, vocational and university levels. It is only through investing in our young people that we can ensure they have all the opportunities that they deserve."

ENDS

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact the Press Office press@greenparty.org.uk 0203 691 9401

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Closure of Ffos-y-fran coal mine must mark next chapter of Wales' renewable

revolution, say Greens



15 August 2023

Wales Green Party leader Anthony Slaughter has said the closure of the Ffos-y-Fran coal mine [1] should mark the next chapter in Wales' rich industrial heritage and its journey to becoming a renewables powerhouse.

Slaughter said:

"Fuelling the nation's energy needs is part of who we are in Wales. Coal has been central to that, but our future now must be as a renewables powerhouse.

"And it is vital that everybody is included as we make this transition. That means we need investment in renewables alongside financial and training support for those workers who will now lose their jobs as a result of the closure of this mine.

"The Welsh government refused to step in to stop this coal mine operating 11 months after its planning permission ran out. That is one more symptom of Labour's failure to deliver a clean green future for everyone.

"Our natural resources provided the fuel for the Industrial revolution. Now our natural resources – wind, sun and water – can lead a green industrial revolution.

"Local people have led the campaign to end coal mining and restore our natural environment. Now they need the Welsh government to support them, show political leadership and deliver a shared vision of Wales as a renewables powerhouse.

"In the first instance, that means government holding the company to its promise to restore the environment. Then, we need investments in green jobs of the future that respect Welsh people's historic contribution to meeting the energy needs of the whole UK."

ENDS

Notes

1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxek2j20x5lo>

For more information or to arrange an interview contact the press office on press@greenparty.org.uk or call 0203 691 9401

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Greens call for rail fare freeze as Government announces below inflationary fare rise



15 August 2023

Following the government announcing it plans to increase rail fares by less than the rate of inflation and will delay fare increases until March 2024, Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay has called on the government to go further and freeze rail fares for at least the next year [1].

Contrasting year on year rail fare rises with the freeze in fuel duty for drivers and cuts to air passenger duty for domestic flights, Ramsay has urged the government to ensure that rail passengers are not penalised for using a more sustainable form of transport.

Adrian Ramsay said:

“This government is moving in completely the wrong direction. Fuel duty has been frozen since 2011, while air passenger duty cuts this year will be a disaster for the climate crisis by encouraging people to fly more.

“This is despite the fact UK rail passengers are already paying more to travel by train [2] than flying and are faced with some of the most expensive tickets in Europe.

“Emissions from transport are higher than for any other sector of the economy. If the UK is to meet its climate commitments then we need more people choosing trains over cars and planes, and we need more commuters opting for public transport and active travel to get to work.

“Making train travel more expensive, while closing rail ticket offices that support travellers to get the best deal, would underscore the government’s contempt for climate action and the travelling public.

“Pushing up prices at all would make it harder for hard-pressed travellers to make the right decision for pocket and planet.

“That is why I am urging the government to come forward with a plan which will freeze rail fares. This would help address the cost of living crisis while helping to tackle the climate emergency.

“The Green alternative to the continued rundown of our railways is clear – make train travel affordable, safe and easy.

“That means bringing the whole rail system into public ownership, making sure it is always cheaper than the equivalent route by air or road, and encouraging more freight onto rail.

“That’s a win-win for the public and tackling the climate crisis.”

Notes

1. The rise in rail fares each January is usually based on the annual increase in Retail Price Index (RPI) measured the previous July. The price cap is usually announced by the Government each December. The government has indicated that next year’s rise will be below inflation and any increase will also be delayed until March 2024. However, the Green Party believe there should be a fare freeze. [Next year’s English rail fares rise will be below inflation, says Government](#)
2. [Recent research suggests train travel is 35% more expensive than flying](#), despite the fact that plane journeys on average emit twice the CO₂ on average (118% more) compared to travelling by train, while fuel duty is frozen

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