

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

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