Pupil attainment is rising, but disadvantaged children are still behind at every stage.

**What is the disadvantage gap?**

It measures the number of months of academic progress disadvantaged children are behind their non-disadvantaged peers.

### The size of the disadvantage gap in 2017

#### What do we mean by disadvantaged?

Pupils eligible for free school meals at any point in the previous six years.

#### What do we mean by persistently disadvantaged?

Pupils eligible for free school meals at least 80% of their time in school.

### On current trends, it will take over 100 years to close the gap in English and maths

In GCSE maths and English, the rate of closure for the disadvantage gap is slowing down. Based on the latest five-year trend, the gap will close in 2155.

### Has the secondary gap really closed sharply in 2017?

- **YES**: The gap in the subjects entered has narrowed, with more pupils entering English literature in particular.
- **HOWEVER**: The grades achieved by disadvantaged pupils have not changed much, leaving the gap in GCSE English and maths barely changed.

13% points: Increased share of pupils entering English Literature GCSE in 2017.

### What has happened to the disadvantage gap in recent years?

- **18.4 months**: Size of gap for disadvantaged pupils in 2017 across all GCSEs
- **23.4 months**: Size of gap for persistently disadvantaged pupils in 2017 across all GCSEs
- **1.6 months**: Reduction in disadvantage gap 2011-2017 across all GCSEs
- **0.5 months**: Reduction in persistently disadvantaged gap 2011-2017 across all GCSEs

### There are big attainment gaps for pupils from different ethnic and language backgrounds...

Chinese pupils are 2 years ahead of White British pupils by the end of secondary.

Pupils arriving late in secondary with English as an Additional Language are over a year behind White British pupils.

### ... and children with special educational needs & disabilities are particularly vulnerable

On current trends, it will take over 100 years to close the gap in English and maths.

### The disadvantage gap: regional breakdown

The disadvantage gap at secondary relative to non-disadvantaged pupils nationally.

Disadvantaged pupils in Kent, Derby, Blackpool, Northumberland and Isle of Wight are over 25 months behind their peers by the end of secondary.

... whereas in Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Tower Hamlets and Redbridge the gap is under 5 months.

### Post-16 routes are also segregated and becoming more so over time

If there was no segregation, around a quarter of learners in all post-16 routes would be disadvantaged.

Instead we see marked differences, with higher proportions of disadvantaged learners in unsustained destinations and FE colleges and lower proportions in school sixth forms.