

Press Release - The Ashcombe School

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS - SUMMER 2017

GCSE RESULTS

This year sees the introduction by the Government of new GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics including a new 9-1 grading system for those GCSEs, whilst retaining for this year existing GCSEs in other subjects and the A*-G grading. To ensure that pupils this year are not disadvantaged, Ofqual, the independent regulator, has ensured that the number of pupils getting new grades 9-4 will be the same nationally as gained grades A*-C last year. The short timescales and late delivery of materials have made this a very stressful two years for pupils and teachers, and we are delighted that the hard work and commitment shown has resulted in excellent results across subjects.

- Outstanding individual results:
 - **41 out of 204 pupils (a fifth) gaining 2 or more top grades: (A* or 9 or 8).**
 - 8.5** Ellen Breaden, Philip O'Donnell; **8:** Jack Hodges; **7:** Hannah Gibbs; **6:** Arthur Herbert, Jake Hourihane; **5:** Caitriona Kealy, Archie Nash, Sarita Shrestha, Tom Wright-Anderson; **4.5** Kezia King; **4:** William Boagey, Will Graham, Heather Harper, Henry Lucas; **3:** Gracie Broom, Hidemaru Hashida, Genevieve Holt, Ilona McDonald, Yuri Son; **2:** Thomas Bevan, Jess Blewett, Elena Brammar, Isaac Brookman, Thomas Cameron-Jenkins, Reuben Collins, Heidi De La Hoyde, Toby Evans, Rodrigo Garcia Caro, Laura Heester, Aislin Jarvis, Maddie Player, Jessica Potts, Julian Race, Honor Roberts, Shannon Rwodzi, Lewis Smith, Robert Spurs, Nik Strong, Katie Walter, Emilia Zarri,
 - the **fifteen** pupils with **4 or more top grades** have demonstrated an exceptional level of achievement across a broad range of subjects.
- **Virtually all** pupils gained **at least 1 A*-G**. This is particularly pleasing because we are a comprehensive school taking the full range of ability with no selection or filtering.
- The percentage of pupils gaining grade **9-4** (equiv to A*-C) in **En + Maths** (*new headline measure, very close to 5A*-C incl En+Ma*) is **75% "first entry"** this year (**GCSEs only, "first entry", no equivalent qualifications counted**)
- **"first entry" %A*-C** in: Maths 78%, English Literature 82%, English Language 82%
- Outstanding subject results included **over 31% achieving grade 9-7 (equiv to A*-A)** in Maths and similarly in a number of subjects incl English Literature, Additional Science, Art, Graphic Design, RS, Geography and History.
- Over **90% of pupils** gained **at least 1 A*-C grade** showing that the curriculum is sufficiently broad and flexible so that virtually all pupils can gain an A*-C grade in at least one subject.

These are outstanding results which have been achieved by a complete cross-section of young people. The Ashcombe School is a mixed comprehensive which offers places to all young people living within the area regardless of academic ability. Examination achievement is regarded as an important aspect of the education we provide but not necessarily the most important aspect and we do not manipulate entry to either courses or exams to improve the statistics.

We believe that a number of factors have contributed to all this success of which the hard work of the pupils themselves, the support of their parents and the skill and dedication of our teachers are the most significant. In addition however, for several years, we have used a system of target setting and monitoring at GCSE in which pupils are given clear indication very early in their

course as to the results we expect. This is based on a subject by subject analysis of their previous performance. At the same time pupils are challenged to exceed these targeted expectations. Many pupils have risen to this challenge magnificently. Within this process, regular monitoring allowed us to give encouragement throughout and to address the issues of those who were in danger of underachieving before it became too late.

These excellent results demonstrate the effectiveness of high quality teaching coupled with strong management systems and team work. The Ashcombe School has achieved a consistently high standard of examination results for many years now, but it is not complacent and will seek to build on this achievement.