

THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL

A LEVEL (and AS) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2019

Amidst all the changes nationally to the exam system, The Ashcombe School's 2019 A-level results continue to show reassuring consistency and strength. The Headteacher, David Blow, welcomed the results:

“Although the students and teachers have had to cope with many changes, we are delighted that the extremely high results for a wide range of students have been maintained. The standard of teaching here is excellent, and the students have responded with enormous commitment and hard work, whilst engaging in a wide range of extra-curricular and social activities.”

The past three years have seen significant national curriculum change with a far greater emphasis on a final exam. At this school, we have continued to encourage students to take four A-level subjects initially and to take AS-level exams at the end of the Lower 6th so that they have maintained breadth of study, have a chance to choose the best three subject to specialise in for their second year in the 6th Form and they get an accurate perspective on their progress at the end of the Lower 6th (an approach endorsed by recently published national research). Over half of the grades were A*, A or B, and over 99% of students gained 2 A-E grades, which is the minimum requirement for a Higher Education course. Many students have gained places at Russell Group universities, in line with figures published earlier this year in local media.

Mr Blow said “As a comprehensive school, our focus is on both achieving outstanding results at the top end, and also delivering high value-added (i.e. the progress made from GCSE to A-level). We pride ourselves in offering opportunity as widely as possible by keeping restrictions on entry to A-level courses to a minimum. We have one of the most open entry policies onto A-level courses of any comprehensive school in Surrey. As a result, a number of students who in most institutions would not have been allowed to begin A-level courses have gained commendable grades, thereby giving them access to university places. We are also delighted with the achievement of individual students who have overcome personal difficulties or tragedies with the help of pastoral and support staff.

“One of the key reasons for our success both in absolute and relative terms has been a consistent focus on the interests of the students, developing a broad range of skills and responsibilities. An excellent pastoral team works with the students identifying concerns at an early stage and offering constructive guidance. The smaller numbers of students nationally this year (part of a demographic dip, echoed in South Mole Valley with the smallest cohort ever), has led to well-publicised issues at a national level regarding university admissions. This means that support before on and after exam results day is vital to help students make the right choices for them, including doing do a higher apprenticeship”.

There were many outstanding individual results from the 90 students:

- **12 students gained 3 or more A or A* grades** (*subjects where A* grade have * after subject*):
Ewan Bate (*Economics, Politics*, Spanish*)
William Boagey (*Classical Civilisation, English Literature*, History*)
Ellen Breaden (*Biology*, Chemistry*, Mathematics*)
Gracie Broom (*Business Studies, DT Product Design*, Geography*)
Ailsa Graham (*Business Studies, Geography, Mathematics*)
Will Graham (*Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics*)
Hidemaru Hashida (*Japanese*, Mathematics*, Further Mathematics*, Physics**)
Jack Hodges (*History, Mathematics*, Physics*)
Jake Hourihane (*Economics, Geography*, Politics*)
Kezia King (*Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Spanish*)
Philip O'Donnell (*Chemistry*, Mathematics*, Further Mathematics*, Physics**)
Tom Wright-Anderson (*Biology, Geography*, History*)

They will be studying as follows: (please note that in some case, these may change):

Ewan Bate *Economics and Politics, Leeds*; William Boagey *English Language and Literature, Edinburgh*; Ellen Breaden *Medicine, Edinburgh*; Gracie Broom *Marketing and Design, Lancaster*; Ailsa Graham *Physical Geography, Newcastle*; Will Graham *Chemical Engineering, Nottingham*; Hidemaru Hashida *Earth Planetary Science, Imperial*; Jack Hodges *History and International Relations, Kings*; Jake Hourihane *PPE, Nottingham*; Kezia King *Medicine, Birmingham*; Philip O'Donnell *Maths, Warwick*; Tom Wright-Anderson *Geography, Leeds*

The Lower Sixth's AS results were also extremely strong. Chris Panting, currently Joint Head of School and from September 2019, Headteacher, said "The results are a really positive reflection of the commitment of both staff and pupils. We are proud of our inclusive approach to education and the high standards achieved, and we look forward to continuing this in the new academic year."

4 students gained **4** grade As:

Hannah Burnett, Hugo Hunter, Katie Light, Beth Solman

7 students gained **3** grade As:

Caitlin Airey; Manon Harvey; Laura Heester; Billy Murphy; Ellie Rick-Spearman;
Ellie Thornton; Seth Wallace

16 students gained **2** grade As:

Isabel Bradshaw; Sam Church; Joanna Davies; Eric Epps; Matt Friend;
William Goodfellow; Holly Guy; Maddy Loftus; Huw Morgan; Raph Nash; Liah Putnam;
Poppy Russell; Laura Swinson; Joe Ward; Phoebe Willis; Georgia Wyatt