

## THE ASHCOMBE SCHOOL

### A LEVEL (and AS) EXAMINATION RESULTS 2017

Amidst all the changes nationally to the exam system, The Ashcombe School's 2017 A-level results have shown a 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 major change nationally this year (and next) is that nearly half of the subjects taken at A-level have a new syllabus with only a final exam. At this school, we have continued to encourage students to take four subjects initially and to take an AS exam at the end of the Lower 6<sup>th</sup> so that they have maintained breadth of study and have a chance to choose the best three subject to specialise in for their second year in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. The students this year have experienced a particular challenge in that national decisions have meant that most have taken a mix of "old" and "new" exams.

Well 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.

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.”

There were many outstanding individual results:

- **3 students gained 4 or more A or A\* grades** (*subjects with A\* or A grade listed in italics, and A\* with \* after subject*):

Jessica Beresford (*Biology, Chemistry, English Literature\*, General Studies*); Gemma Everson (*Biology, Psychology\*, PE\*, General Studies*); Max Hunter (*Computer Science\*, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics*).

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

Jessica Beresford *Medicine, Manchester*; Gemma Everson *Sport and Exercise Science, Bath*; Max Hunter *Computer Science with Maths, Bath*.

- **15 students gained 3 A or A\* grades** (*subjects with A\* or A grade listed in italics, and A\* with \* after subject*) :

Alexia Beale (*Mathematics\**, *Further Mathematics \**, *Physics*); Lucy Brett (*Biology\**, *Chemistry\**, *Mathematics*); Emily Brewer (*Biology\**, *Chemistry*, *Mathematics*); Helena Bush (*English Literature*, *History*, *Government & Politics*); Clara Byrne (*Biology*, *Business\**, *Geography*); Paola Elias (*Mathematics\**, *Further Mathematics\**, *Physics*); Stuart Ellis (*Computer Science*, *Mathematics\**, *Further Mathematics*); Abby Hubbard (*English Literature*, *History\**, *Government & Politics*); Kezia Mahony (*Mathematics\**, *Further Mathematics\**, *Psychology\**); Kenji Mark (*Economics*, *Mathematics*, *Physics*); Owen O'Donnell (*Mathematics*, *Further Mathematics\**, *Physics*); Leith Osborne (*Computer Science*, *Mathematics\**, *Further Mathematics\**); George Warne (*Economics*, *History*, *Religious Studies\**); Rufus Watson (*Mathematics\**, *Further Mathematics*, *Physics\**); Beth Waugh (*Biology*, *Chemistry*, *Mathematics*).

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

Alexia Beale *Physics, Surrey*; Lucy Brett *Medicine, Nottingham*; Emily Brewer *Chemistry, Bristol*; Helena Bush *History, Birmingham*; Clara Byrne *Geography, Royal Holloway*; Paola Elias *Physics with Astronomy, Nottingham*; Stuart Ellis *Computer Science, Nottingham*; Abby Hubbard *English Literature, Durham*; Kezia Mahony *Maths with Philosophy, Sheffield*; Kenji Mark *Finance with Business, Durham*; Owen O'Donnell *Physics, Lancaster*; Leith Osborne *Natural Sciences, Durham*; George Warne *History, Leeds*; Rufus Watson *Physics, tbc*; Beth Waugh *Natural Sciences, York*.

The Lower Sixth's AS results were also extremely strong

**4** students gained **5** grade As: Ethan Belward; Daniel Crawshaw; Joseph Edwards; Jasmine Kent-Hargreaves

**6** students gained **4** grade As: Christopher Berry; Jacob Byrne; Sasha Giles ; Molly Hunter ; Will Phillips ; Anna Rowlands ;

**7** students gained **3** grade As: Tamsin Airey; Alice Bradshaw; George Murrell; Elodie Pinn; Ben Sears; Jonathan Stubbs; Amy Walsh