



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 21 August 2020

From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher

GCSE Results *SPECIAL ISSUE*



This year's GCSE cohort has suffered like none other as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the national crisis around last week's A-Level results, students awaiting their GCSE grades did so with great anxiety. Their concerns eased a little following the announcement that the results would be the better of the School's centre-assessed grades and the grades moderated by the now-infamous 'algorithm'.

Against this troubled background it is a great delight and a tremendous relief to report that our students' GCSE grades are outstandingly impressive. The results duly and fairly recognise the quality of this able cohort. The students have been properly rewarded for the hard work, focus and ambition that was so in evidence before their GCSE year was so suddenly cut short back in March. A difficult period can now be forgotten as the students celebrate their well-earned results and take their place, rightly and proudly, amongst our best-performing GCSE cohorts.



The headlines for our 240 students are simply stunning:

Grade 9 passes	454	19% of all grades
Grade 8 or 9	924	39% of all grades
Grade 7,8 or 9 (equivalent to the old grade A)	1,498	63% of all grades

The average grade amongst all 2,372 grades awarded was a grade 7, the equivalent of an old-style grade A. Every single student achieved a good pass grade in English Language, Mathematics and in each of their Science subjects.

There were some spectacular results in Science with each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics achieving at least 55 grade 9 results. In the other compulsory subjects, there were 41 grade 9 passes in Mathematics, 62 in English and 33 in Spanish. Amongst the optional GCSE subjects our students earned 25 grade 9 results in History and 18 in both Computer Science and Geography.



There were some breathtakingly impressive and very well-earned individual successes led by Scott Merriman and Marcus Walker who each secured an astonishing haul of eleven grade 9 passes. Few students in the country will have achieved at this level. Four students obtained ten grade 9 passes, each with a further grade 8 award. These were Louise Jones, Oliver Lee, James Watling and Ben Williamson.

Katie Callcut, Jess Gowers, Will Kong, Ali Mavani and Rachel Tsang were all awarded nine grade 9 passes and Ben Dawson, John Elliott and Rithvik Sanga have eight grade 9 GCSEs.

Across the board students have obtained results of which they can be proud as they move on to their next challenges, well prepared, confident and ready to build on what they have achieved.



These GCSE results are the last set of public examination results of my Headship and I cannot imagine ending the run of sixteen such reports in a better way. I am so proud of this year's students; they were denied the Year 11 experience that they expected and had looked forward to and were not able to prove themselves in the examination hall. But their quality shines through in their results, a good number of which were actually *raised* by the boards beyond the centre-assessed grades which the School submitted. Most of the cohort will move on to our Sixth Form in September and I wish every student fulfilment, enjoyment and, ultimately, further official recognition of their achievements at A-Level.



THIS YEAR'S A-LEVEL RESULTS - UPDATE

Everyone will have heard in the media about the Government's 'U-Turn' regarding the way in which the 2020 A-Level and GCSE results were, in the end, determined. The change in method was advised on Monday, four days after the release of the A-Level results. Our students' A-Level results, even as originally released, were excellent but behind the impressive headline figures lay individual cases - real students - whose grades were reduced by the 'algorithm' below their teachers' Centre-Assessed grades. The situation has now been corrected and all Year 13 students have been sent a revised statement of their A-Level grades. In many cases there is no change but where students' grades have been corrected to the grades they should have been awarded in the first place there are in some cases serious consequences. Having now their true, higher grades, some students are in the position that they now meet or exceed the requirements of university offers whose requirements they did not meet last week on their results day. The good news is that these students may now study at the institution of their choice. The very bad news is that, in some cases, although the institution will now accept these students, the places are no longer available this year. So a student must, if he/she wishes to study at such an institution, take up their place next year, not this year.

It is good that the Government has taken the decision to recognise that its algorithm did not work satisfactorily and the apology published when announcing the U-Turn was undoubtedly sincere. But some of our students have suffered badly as a consequence of how the Government has handled the publication of this year's GCSE results.

Whilst celebrating the excellent A-Level results, the success of so many students who will soon be off to the university that they wish to attend and, of course, our fabulous GCSE results, I feel that is appropriate to conclude this year's reporting with this recognition that some of our students - motivated, hard-working, successful and holding excellent results which they have earned - have been badly let down for reasons beyond their control and beyond the School's control.