

13th August 2020

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to be able to inform you that today we have been able to rejoice in person with girls who have achieved outstanding A Level and EPQ results.

Outstanding results have been achieved in all subjects with A* - A achieved in 63% of grades overall and A* - B in 88% of grades with many departments, including Modern Languages, scoring A* - A across the board. Other subjects achieving only A or A* are Physics, Economics, Fine Art, Geography, Classical Greek and Classical Civilisation. In addition, girls achieved 100% grade As in AS Further Maths – the highest grade achievable in this subject. The results of the EPQs (Extended Project Qualification) were also excellent, with girls achieving 100% A* and A.

Many of our girls achieved only As or A*s, including Mithra Kumaran with three A*s, one A and an A for her EPQ, Nell Dobson with three A*s and an A* for her EPQ, Caitlin Parry with three A*s and an A* for her EPQ, Aoife Pedreschi with two A*s, one A and an A* for her EPQ, Jasmine Dawuda with one A*, two As and an A* for her EPQ, Renee Reid with one A* and two As, Shriya Sharma with one A* and two As, Susannah Towers with one A* and two As, Sofia Gentile with three As and an A for her EPQ and Dalia Al-Baghdadi with three As.

Girls are now going on to the most prestigious universities in the world. Among them, one of our girls is going to Oxford to study English and French, another going to Cambridge to study Modern and Medieval Languages while another is going to Imperial College to study Medicine with two others studying Medicine at Liverpool and Plymouth. Queen Mary, University of London will welcome two of our girls to study Dentistry while another will study English at the University of Bristol and another will study English Literature at Durham University. Cardiff University will meanwhile see another girl studying Mechanical Engineering and Edinburgh is the destination of a girl studying Spanish and English Literature. We pride ourselves on providing an education which equips our pupils to pursue the widest range of subjects at university and this year's Upper VI has yet again proved the efficacy of the school's approach.

The press activity, the political whirlwind and extraordinary engagement of everyone in the world who has an opinion on education has escalated the emotion around these results like no other year I have ever known. What is for sure is that while we have not heard the last of the political ramifications, we are thrilled that our process of awarding Centre Assessed Grades has

for the most part been upheld. This is because of our sustained track record of excellence which includes consistently splendid GCSE results with extremely high Value Added scores. We are imagining that the algorithm used to moderate the grades nationally has weighted the final grades such that our contextual data has played well with final outcomes.

Having said that, a number of grades were moved down. As you might expect we are vigorously contesting this as a centre as far as we can using the very odd appeals process which has been offered. The impact on this generation of Covid is substantial and we will work hard for every girl and every grade. I would like to thank Ms Hagerty and Mr Murphy and all of our teachers for setting the girls up for greatness. Enormous congratulations go to Mrs MacLennan whose focus on Oxbridge and highly competitive courses has yielded such brilliant results.

This is not the moment for a vast political debate, nor for discussions of statistical processes. Today we celebrate with all of our Upper VI who have shown courage and intellectual acumen in fine measure. They proceed to wonderful universities and they do so secure in the knowledge that because we know them so very well they will never be regarded as part of a mere outcome of an algorithm. They are, each one of them, beautiful human beings for whom grades matter but they know they are not defined by them. We are proud of their achievements and simply can't wait to see what they do next.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Raffray MA, NPQH
Headteacher

