

23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018

Dear Parent,

### GCSE Results 2018

Last week I wrote to you with news of tremendous A level results. This week we have celebrated with girls who have distinguished themselves with excellent GCSE grades. As Head, I am ambitious for the girls and our teachers share that. However, something greater than a desire for top grades is at work at St Augustine's, because we are just as delighted, if not more so, for those girls for whom a more varied set of results represents a mighty achievement.

I am delighted to provide you with some brilliant headlines:-

- 66% of all grades were A\*/A or 9-7 (+8% on 2017)
- 42% of all grades were A\* or 9/8 (+11% on 2017)
- 100% of French grades were A\*
- 96% of Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics IGCSE) were A\*/A
- 90% of Modern Languages (French, Russian & Spanish) were A\* or A
- 61% of the grades in Mathematics, English Language and English Literature combined were 9, 8 or 7
- Subjects with all A\*/A or 9-7 were French, Computer Studies, Russian, Latin, Biology and Classical Greek
- 12 pupils (27% of the year group) scored A\*/A /9/8/7 in all their subjects
- More than 50% of Religious Studies grades were 9/8
- 55% of all entries in Drama, Music and Art were 9-7

St Augustine's is unashamedly driven to maximise each girl's academic potential. This is the mission for me, all the staff and the governors of the school. Well done girls, we are so very proud of you. While we rightly applaud those who gained top grades, I also send my heartfelt congratulations to those girls who attained grades 6 or below. I say to all girls, you are deeply loved. As a Catholic school, where we treasure the whole person, we know that you are not defined by your grades.

I know from the very frank and warm conversations we had with parents last year that there is a thirst for honesty about what we, as a school, are all about as we educate your daughters. We are all so very proud of the beautiful and sensitive young women who walk out of St Augustine's, like the girl who wrote to Miss Keep last week following her exam results.

*I went to school today to pick up my results and I was so nervous because I did not know what to expect.*

*I knew I had worked hard for my A Levels with all of your support, I just wasn't sure that the examiners would recognise that fact.*

*The surprising thing was that not only did I get what I wanted in my results, but I did better than anything my family would have been happy with. They are all over the moon.*

*Today's results have enhanced my confidence and I couldn't have done this without you and all the teachers who supported me at St Augustine's.*

I wonder how many of us could have written like this to our teachers. There is a dignity, maturity and depth of a relationship which no grade will ever communicate but which our girls show constantly.

Last term girls set off on our inaugural work experience sessions set up by Mr Ferguson and Ms Hagerty using the Association links. The refrain from those who were generous enough to host our girls was that they were more impressive than most graduates. They have get up and go, they don't wait to be told what to do, they are articulate and at ease with themselves and with others. We know this but it was wonderful to hear others extol their virtues.

And so I congratulate every single girl today for her achievements. We are looking for each girl to achieve her personal best. I hope that we can really set a new tone this year as a school in our language – personal bests for all of us whatever we are doing. That is the Catholic piece of our work – it is what sets us apart from other schools.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Raffray". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

**Mrs Sarah Raffray MA NPQH  
Headteacher**