

16th August 2018

Dear Parents,

A Level Results 2018

I am delighted to write to you with news of excellent outcomes for our UVI.

Our percentage of A*s has increased by 4%. 40% of all grades (including EPQ) were A* to A while 50% of candidates achieved two grade As or above (including EPQ). At EPQ alone over three quarters of the grades were A* or A. The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is the equivalent of an AS and is highly valued by all the top universities. More and more universities are including EPQs in their offers to candidates.

Grade A*s and As were achieved in a wide range of subjects, including Biology, English Literature, Geography, Government and Politics, History, Mathematics, P.E., Sociology and Spanish. 100% of grades in History, Mathematics, English, Economics and Spanish were A* - B. AS Levels, which are now stand alone qualifications, were excellent with 100% A grades achieved in Further Maths and in Art. This is the maximum grade available.

In Upper V, out of 20 candidates for the Cambridge IGCSE History qualification, 14 girls achieved grades 9 and 8. In addition, in Upper V in the FSMQ Additional Maths qualification, which stands as a bridge between GCSE and A Level, 82 % of candidates achieved the top grade of A.

This year's UVI is unusually small with just 14 girls (40% smaller than an average year group in the Sixth Form). This wonderful year group were a small cohort as they moved through the school. What we have seen, however, is proof of the adage that small is beautiful as they have been a truly inspirational group of young women who have embraced the challenge of the new A level system with openness and integrity.

They have been exceptional role models to younger girls in their gamechanging approach to the Big Sister Little Sister programme and in many cases in their devotion to many hours of coaching younger girls in their sport. They espouse the values of the school and when they have met challenges they have worked honestly and bravely with us. As a consequence, they leave us equipped for university and independent study. We are proud that when girls progress to university they do not drop out. Those of you with older children will know the cost of a university place not working out and it is not a statistic that appears in league tables. We know that the girls in Priory 6 not only receive competitive offers from the best universities in the world but they also then discern the best university for them.

Most girls at St Augustine's hold offers from the Russell Group universities each year but they are empowered to turn them down in favour of courses and institutions which perform better in their chosen subjects; Loughborough is an excellent example of a high performing university which is not in the Russell Group. The university landscape is changing and it is very important that we recognise the quality of the young women who move on every year to start the next stage of their story. This year, university destinations include, London School of Economics, Kings College London, Warwick, Newcastle, Nottingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Loughborough and also Toronto! Every year parents ask me about the number of girls going to Russell Group universities. We encourage girls to pick the right university for them. For example, the student going to Toronto has turned down a confirmed offer from Kings College London. This is an excellent example of the judgement the girls are using in making their choices.

Last year our school theme was gamechanging - we all learn every year from the extended reflection and activities that these strands provide for us. This year we will ponder and act on the theme of lessons for life. The stories of each girl collecting results today are rich and deep - they go beyond the numbers and grades which their examinations generated. In many cases they are also stories of the heritage of the school as many girls have been with us since the Preps. Watch out for them as they take their place in the world - we need principled, imaginative and courageous people like these wonderful young women.

Congratulations to the girls and their parents for weathering this significant rite of passage and to the outstanding members of staff who have nurtured and challenged and inspired them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Raffray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mrs Sarah Raffray MA NPQH
Headteacher