

22nd August 2019

Dear Parent

GCSE Results 2019

We have had another very happy day with GCSE results this year demonstrating convincingly just how a community, working together, can achieve so much. Outstanding results have been achieved in this year's GCSE results with 100% of pupils achieving at least one grade 9, 8 or 7 and 21% of all grades were the top grade, 9.

At a time when the emphasis is on STEM subjects, results here show that our girls have achieved excellent results across the board with 98% of Triple Science results (Biology, Chemistry & Physics IGCSE) grades at 9, 8 or 7, while 93% of Modern Languages (French, Russian & Spanish) grades were 9, 8 or 7 and 83% of all entries in Art, Drama and Music were grades 9, 8 or 7.

Coupled with this, 83% of Religious Studies grades were 9, 8 or 7. This rigorous examination tests academic acumen and develops sophisticated qualities of ethical debate. Our world is crying out for young people with these skills.

In all, 86% of pupils achieved at least one grade 9 or 8 and 22% of the year group scored grades 9, 8 or 7 in all their subjects. Individual successes include the following girls who gained all grades 9 – 7: Mehru Mittal, Eleanor Kaffo, Naomi Jeffries, Lizzy Higham and Antonia Higgins. Congratulations also go to Andrea Barry, Katie Fung and Madina Masoud, who gained a clean 9 – 8 sweep. In addition, I am delighted to announce that Naomi Jeffries has been awarded the inaugural Mary Tredway Academic Scholarship. This prestigious Sixth Form scholarship recognises the academic excellence of our Sixth Form girls and we have been delighted with the calibre of applicants, once again, joining Priory 6 in September.

There has been recent coverage in 'The Telegraph' of independent schools entering their pupils as external candidates for public examinations in order to improve their league table results – external candidates do not count towards the year group's overall results. Last year there was the scandal of Academies "off-rolling" students who might affect their grades.

At St Augustine's our motto is Veritas – meaning Truth. Every girl who comes through our school is one of us and we cherish all results individually. There are some remarkable success stories buried in the numbers we crunch on Results Day.

On average, this year at GCSE each girl achieved what we call a Value Added score of +2. We use a system called CAT testing which is a cognitive ability exercise which provides nationally benchmarked predictions for GCSEs and A Levels. Most schools use these grades as the grade to which students aspire. Here at St Augustine's we use this grade as the minimum they should attain. Thus, when the results come out in August we examine every grade for every pupil to see how she performed against those minimum expected grades. If her CAT predicted grade was a 5 and she gained a 7 that is a Value Added score of +2.

At St Augustine's girls, teachers and parents work together, creating an atmosphere where care for the individual girl is paramount, where each girl's potential is of supreme importance and where our Upper V can look forward to their A Levels with hope and optimism. Thank you to all parents who have worked with us so closely. This was a small year group but the girls were highly impressive. They worked hard and used everything offered to them. They are ready to make an exceptional contribution to Priory 6 and the leadership of the school.

I would like to pay tribute to our exceptional staff, including the Learning Support team, who guide and encourage pupils to achieve their best with confidence and ambition.

I would also like to thank and to bid farewell to Mr Thomas who, apart from being an invaluable member of the Science Department, has overseen the public examinations as our Examinations Officer for several years. In his place I welcome Miss Masih, who has been shadowing Mr Thomas over recent months, and will take over the role of Examinations Officer from September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Raffray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs Sarah Raffray MA NPQH
Headteacher