

10th August 2021

Dear Parents

I hope you have had a marvellous summer so far - it has certainly been incredibly powerful to have time to absorb and reflect upon this momentous year.

I write with news of A Level successes and University destinations. In recent years our top performing students have stayed here for Sixth Form and indeed this year we had a returning student who is amongst those now celebrating the very best of results. Happily there is less of a media feeding frenzy this year - and make no mistake there is one every year - but nevertheless our message is clear. The students worked with zest and energy, supported by outstanding teachers who mustered every reserve of energy in the middle of a very bleak winter to ensure that this exam series delivered the right results for each candidate. Our students benefitted from uninterrupted teaching from the first lockdown and, while their experience was very different, they enjoyed the continuity of teachers who knew them, their strengths and where they needed to be extended. Despite yet another year of no examinations, the grades achieved by our pupils are testament to the outstanding educational opportunities available here even during the pandemic:

- 100% of all A Level grades are A* - C with
- 28% of pupils achieving only A* grades and
- 56% of pupils achieving only A* or A grades.
- 85% of A Level grades are A* or A and
- 98% of all results are A*-B

Students have received exceptional offers from an impressive range of courses and universities nationwide, which include Mathematics at Bristol University, Politics and International Studies at Warwick University, Dental Surgery at Plymouth University, Biomedical Sciences at Exeter University, Russian Studies and Social Policy/Sociology and Politics at Edinburgh University, Chemical Engineering at University College London and Classical Studies at King's College London. All the girls have impressed us with the quality of their research into the courses and providers, also securing places with top grades at leading institutions with a specialism for their course of study, for example, Mathematics and Accounting and Financial Management at Loughborough University. In addition, the students have had great success applying to non-UK universities with places achieved at a range of U.S. universities with impressive offers of scholarships from the University of Tampa and SMU in Dallas. The world is their oyster!

The results speak for themselves and stand up with previous years, and I trust with years to come. As always there are individual stories here of triumph over tragedy, of reflective choices - which scholarship to turn down is a new one and of decisions made as the world began to step blinking out of a pandemic.

The landscape of universities is changing - students are highly discerning and are questioning their choice of degree and institution as never before. Old certainties about the "best" universities are shifting. I thank Mrs MacLennan and Miss Hales for their skilful and adaptive methods of steering this exceptional year group through new times. These girls, like the current Lower VI, benefitted from an insight into university life curated by Mrs MacLennan which involved bespoke lectures from King's College London University, Regent's Park College of Oxford University, Birkbeck University and Birmingham University and shared with our Emmaus partnership schools Sacred Heart in Hammersmith, St Benedict's School, Cardinal Wiseman School and also the Ellen Wilkinson School for Girls. Our Sixth Form is small but it is quietly brilliant as these results show.

With best wishes

Mrs S Raffray MA NPQH
Headteacher

