



18<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Dear Parents

I hope that you have had a restful summer and that there have not been too many adventures at airports and so on. While a good travel story usually involves a calamity of some kind, the generally unsettled state of the world and apparently constant flow of negative news means that a peaceful summer has been much in order.

Every year in the run up to results days, the press move into a fervour of speculation and this year has been no exception. For a few weeks now the nation has been told to brace for disappointment. This is a pity because once again our students have shown remarkable fortitude and energy.

This year's A level cohort is the first to sit public exams for two years. A Level students this year did not sit their GCSEs and so this examination season was their first experience of what it means to be tested in this way. Terminal exams (as they are called) are a very particular kind of assessment and we were so proud of the zeal and bravery of this cohort, like every cohort which has gone through this rite of passage during the pandemic.

I am delighted to say that for our students the results demonstrate their consistent hard work and commitment to learning. 25% of all A Level results are A\* and 57% are A/A\*. In addition, 41% of the cohort achieved all A\*/As and in History, Geography, Sociology and Art, all results were A/A\*. I would particularly like to mention Melissa Ghapantsyan who achieved an outstanding A\* in all three of her A Levels, plus an A\* in her EPQ. Isabella Richardson also achieved three A\*s and an A in her EPQ. Special congratulations also to Tierney O'Rourke (A\*AA), Sofia Popovic (A\*AA), Siya Sehgal (A\*AA), Mia Tobin (A\*AA) and Anna Woodbridge (A\*AA).

Contrary to the negative press coverage regarding university destinations, we are delighted that so many of our students will be heading to prestigious universities this September including Warwick, Exeter, Durham, UCL and Kings.

We congratulate every student warmly on all they have achieved – not just in terms of results and university destinations but also in what each grade means for them in each subject. Behind every grade there is a story - which is also a tale of the teachers who taught them and nourished them throughout a pandemic. We are particularly proud of those students who made the commitment to undertake an EPQ on a subject of their choice. As always, these independent research projects demonstrate the wide interests of our students, for example, the viability of mass social housing, the relationship between money and success in the English Premier League and the extent to which religion drove the formation of city

states in Mesopotamia.

At St Augustine's Priory because we are a Catholic school we talk all the time of the uniqueness of each student – they are all made in the image of God. No-one else has their fingerprints and each one sets off now to unfold their story and to make their mark on a world yearning for vision and courage. I am grateful to them all for the part they have played in the story of St Augustine's - take our Head Girl Siya Sehgal who set up the Female Lead Society. Each one of them leaves a legacy and we are looking forward to celebrating with them at their Progression Mass and supper. They know their voices matter and they will join with others who are changing the face of the earth – like the voice of Amanda Gorman who urged this at President Biden's inauguration:

When day comes, we step out of the shade,

Aflame and unafraid.

The new dawn blooms as we free it,

For there is always light,

If only we're brave enough to see it,

If only we're brave enough to be it.

Amanda Gorman, The Hill We Climb

With very best wishes

Mrs Sarah Raffray MA, NPQH

Headteacher