

25th August 2022

Dear Parents,

Last week I wrote to you with news of our A level successes - if you follow us on social media you will have seen plenty of online engagement with the universities which our students are joining. Our students are off to top flight universities and because they know themselves and are savvy, they are also set to pursue courses which represent the future of learning; for example, Jeevun Dhillon is off to King's College London to read Digital Media and Culture, Mia Tobin to Warwick University to study International Management, and Sennen Powell to the University of the Arts, London to read Photography. You may have read that 43,000 students are still waiting for a University place; we are rightly proud that all of our A Level students have University places for the coming academic year.

You may have seen coverage in the press about the fall in uptake of Arts subjects nationally in favour of STEM subjects. We have seen this to a degree at St Augustine's - our students love STEM subjects and we encourage them to do what they enjoy. We know that science graduates earn more - and so students nationally take up STEM subjects (even if they risk lower grades) because they have their eye on the horizon. That said we are proud of our support for the Arts - our curriculum from EYFS to UVI proclaims this. We are also innovative in our approach to integrating subjects - because RE is core, we can take as read that our students are exceptionally literate in ethical decision making, critical thinking and seeing the world in an integrated way. We are human beings and our whole being – heart and soul matters. Our investment in Drama - whole year group productions right up to UIV (year 9) and our expansion of our Art offering to include digital art is part of our belief that everything we do is interconnected.

It is with great joy then that we share excellent individual and subject successes for our GCSE candidates. We are back in the land of working with exam boards where sometimes there are vagaries in marking or madly narrow grade boundaries. This is always a day of roller coaster emotions. But as those feelings settle we know that this cohort can be especially proud of their dedication and pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. Their teachers can be delighted with the wisdom with which they approached the guidance from boards this year and the bespoke attention every student received. Our overall results reflect this commitment from students and teachers. 20% of all grades were grade 9, 42% were 8/9 and 69% of all results were grade 7 or above. In particular, I would like to commend Elodie King who achieved 9 GCSEs at Grade 9, with a further 2 GCSEs at grade 7 and Julia Szewczyk who achieved all grade 8s and 9s. For the following students, 50% or more of their results were Grade 9: Freya Ellis, Ionela Diaconu, Marija Vincic, Olivia Sparks, Naomi Nnatu and Sophie Fung. Overall 21% of our students gained all grade 7 and above, a huge achievement and we congratulate them on their success.

The national and world stage remains extremely troubling and the more I witness the more convinced I am of the profound worth of what we are doing here at St Augustine's. Our GCSE students today have modelled that for us - they have been an utter joy to work with and our relationships with them are incredibly strong. At GCSE every UV student has a mentor from the Senior Leadership Team. We invest in them. We care for them and we rejoice heart and soul in every result whether it is a 9 or a 4. My letters to

you cannot highlight the individual stories where a 4 or a 5 represents an enormous achievement - as mighty and exciting as an 8 or a 9 - but I would like to highlight that we wish them all the wonder and happiness of this moment.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday – we are excited about the term ahead and all that this year will bring.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sarah Raffray MA, NPQH

Headteacher

