

17th August 2023

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families have had a restful summer and are now enjoying the long-awaited sunshine that has finally arrived if you are here in the UK.

Every year, and particularly since 2020, the media has found new ways of speculating about grades, grade boundaries and university destinations – all seemingly designed to maximise anxiety and add even more pressure to students and their parents as they await these important exam results. This year is no different of course, and we have been told to expect up to 100,000 fewer top grades as exam boards revert to 2019 grading protocols.

I am delighted to share with you that, despite this negative coverage, so many of our pupils have achieved excellent grades and are going to study subjects at their universities of choice. I firstly want to congratulate our Head Girl, Lucy Williams for achieving A*A*A in History, Religious Studies and Biology, plus A* in her EPQ on the causes of the Salem Witch trials. Lucy will take up a place at the University of Cambridge studying History – she richly deserves this success. Special mention also to Anna Spurway (A*A*A) who is going to the University of Durham and Maggie Amos (A*A*A) who will study at the University of Bath.

We are particularly proud of two of our students who have been instrumental in the development and running of our unique farm and are continuing their studies in this field. Lily Rai will start her degree in Veterinary Medicine at Nottingham University, and Freya Horridge will be studying Veterinary Nursing at Hartpury University. As always, other St Augustine's students will be enjoying study in a wide variety of subjects including BioMedicine, Computer Science, Software Engineering, Psychology, Philosophy and Sociology at universities including Queen Mary, University of London, Nottingham, Bath and Royal Holloway.

Our Art department is celebrating outstanding A Level results with 67% A* and a range of exciting destinations including A* success for both Mehrain Marri and Adriana Krickic who will study at Central St Martins and Brighton Metropolitan College respectively. Yutong Liang will study Architecture at the University of Reading after achieving A* in Photography and A in Art and Design.

We know of course that this year's A Level cohort did not sit public exams for their GCSEs and while they did internal exams, it was the first time they had the full experience of the pressures of final exams at the end of two years. Overall, 15% of grades were A* and 38% A*/A, which, although lower than last year's A Levels which benefitted from advance information and more generous grade boundaries, is higher than our comparable 2019 result of 34% A*/A. We are so proud of all they have achieved despite the disruption to their studies.

Results Day is always one of celebration and we are so pleased to see our young women heading off into the world make their mark and continue their story. They have been a tremendous year group and an inspiration to the younger girls in the school. We look forward to seeing them at their

Leavers' Mass and our celebratory Progression Dinner and wish them all the very best in the future.

With very best wishes

Mrs Christine Macallister BA, ACA

Headteacher