

# BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

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From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher

## GCSE RESULTS *Special Issue*



Following on from last week's excellent A-Level results, I am thrilled to report that the 2018 GCSE results are outstanding and that they are certainly at least as good as the best ever achieved by students here. Regular readers of *The Bulletin* will know that the GCSE syllabi have been changing, with the rigour and academic demands increasing and assessment now entirely by traditional examinations. The staff here have had to come to terms with the new demands, which has involved a great deal of hard work. The students have responded with even more focus, dedication and motivation than we have come to take for granted at our School. By any standards the students have been richly and duly rewarded by the examiners. The scale of their achievement really is impressive.



This year, the GCSE results in all of the core subjects and in all but three of the GCSE subjects offered here are on the new 9-1 grading scale. Next year all GCSE grades will be on the new 9-1 scale.

A headline in *The Sunday Times* this week read 'GCSE elite set to shrink to just 1,000 super-smart teens'. It was suggested that 'A tiny group of about 1,000 brilliant teenagers will be crowned the nation's academic high-flyers when more than half a million youngsters get their GCSE results this week. The elite band, making up 0.2% of candidates, is expected to score the highest grade of 9 across a clean sweep of eight of this summer's new tough GCSEs.' **Nine**

**students at Bourne Grammar achieved a clean sweep of eight (or more) grade 9 passes.** They represent 4.4% of our cohort, not 0.2%. Across the cohort, the students achieved 329 grade 9 passes.

	329	Grade 9 passes	17%	
	640	Grade 8 or 9 passes	33%	
	1,063	Grade 7,8 or 9 passes	54%	



But amongst these, one exceptional student, Holly Barber, achieved a quite astonishing haul of **ten new-style GCSE awards at grade 9** along with a special Distinction A\* grade in Further Mathematics.

In addition to Holly's fabulous eleven top grades, four further students achieved nine grade 9 passes along with other outstanding results. Harriet Laugharne and Aashobanna Valli each achieved nine grade 9s, an A\* and a special Distinction A\* grade. Rebecca Earth and Lauren Gapper each achieved nine grade 9s and one grade 8.

Hannah Friel, Jonathan Gutteridge, Thomas Morris and Carrington Young all achieved eight grade 9 passes. Bertie Cliffe, Yasmin Hornsby, Angus Manning and Katie Stockman achieved seven.

Across the cohort, thirty-one students achieved at least five grade 9 passes and 90 students achieved at least one grade 9.

The new grading scheme has split the old grade A and A\* into three grades, 7,8 and 9. Our 206 students achieved 329 grade 9 passes, 640 at grade 8 or better and 1,063 at grade 7 or better. This means that 54% of all grades were at the equivalent of, or better than, the old A grade.



The results in the core subjects were hugely impressive. In each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics the average grade was almost a grade 8. In Mathematics, where the students achieved 33 grade 9, 40 grade 8 and 48 grade 7 passes the average over all students was a grade 7. Students achieved fabulous results in English Language and English Literature with 97 Language grades being grade 7 or better and 89 Literature at grade 7 or better.

Ofqual

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
	U

Although the study of modern foreign languages is reported to be declining nationally, at Bourne Grammar all students take GCSE Spanish and 44 achieved a grade 9 pass, and 106 achieved a grade 7 or better. In French, all but one of the grades was a grade 9 ... the other was an 8.

Not all students can achieve so many absolute top grades but all at our School can achieve great things if they work hard and have a goal to aim for. When we went through the results yesterday we drew great satisfaction, again and again, from seeing the achievements of students who would not reach the headlines but who have worked extremely hard to secure the results they wanted. Often their aim was to achieve good results in order to secure a place in our Sixth Form, for example. These students will be relieved to

receive their results today and to see proof of their achievements. There are some really remarkable achievements amongst them.

The GCSE results are a fitting end to two years of hard work by our students. The GCSE examination is getting harder and our numbers are increasing yet our results are better than ever. The students' wonderful GCSE results mean that they can now progress into the Sixth Form with great confidence. The demands of Advanced Level study nowadays are considerable so a good grounding in terms of GCSE results is essential. Our students are in a



very strong position to return in a few weeks with confidence.

Congratulations to all on these brilliant, well-earned results. The students have shown what they can do; I am impressed, delighted and very proud. I wish each one every possible success for the next stage, which starts in a few weeks' time.

