



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 14 August 2020

From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher

A-Level Results *SPECIAL ISSUE*



Our 181 Year 13 students reached A-Level results day at the end of a year they will never forget. Robbed by Covid-19 of their final months in School, many weeks' teaching time and the opportunity to demonstrate the fruits of their labours by sitting formal examinations, the students have had a lot to deal with since their school careers ended so abruptly back in March.

The students were at last able to see how their achievements in academic study were judged by their teachers and confirmed by the examination boards. Though determined other than by the usual process of formal examinations, the 2020 A-Level grades are indeed true A-Level grades, equal in value and esteem to those from past and future cohorts of students. Students will receive their A-Level certificates in due course.





Waiting for the results to be published was a tense time for everyone. It was known that the examination boards could, and most probably would, make some adjustments to the results submitted by schools and that was indeed seen to be case for some of our students' grades. Yet when the students received their results their anxiety turned to joy as their achievements were confirmed by a truly stunning batch of A-Level grades, quite possibly the very finest we have seen at Bourne Grammar School.

In total 547 A-Level results were achieved by our students who almost all obtained three A-Level grades. Some achieved four. A stunning 195 of the grades were A* or A grades. A truly impressive 32 students obtained exclusively A* or A grades and 61 A* grades were achieved in all. There were 134 A grades.

In percentage terms 11.1% of all grades were A* grades, 35.5% were A* or A, 65.5% were B or better and 86.2% of our students' grades were C or better.

There were countless highlights; standing out amongst so much success were the seven students who achieved at least three A* grades. Holly Barber, Bertie Cliffe, Hannah Friel, Yasmin Hornsby and Issy Kaufman all achieved straight A* grades. Oscar Morley and Aaron Waters both achieved three A* grades and a further A grade. Particular congratulations to Holly and Hannah who each achieved four A* grades.

Holly Barber, Bertie Cliffe, Grace Ferguson, Yasmin Hornsby and Issy Kaufman have all met the incredibly high standard required to take up their places to study at Oxford or Cambridge.

Over half of all grades were A* or A grades in eight subjects - Computer Science, Further Mathematics, French, German, Mathematics, Music, Politics and Design Engineering. There were stunning results in Design Engineering where 28.6% of the grades were A* grades and 57.1% were A* or A. In French and Further Mathematics a quarter the grades were A* grades. Our first A-Level results in Sociology were excellent with 26.3% of the grades at A* or A.





I am so delighted that this particular Year 13 cohort has achieved, after such a difficult year, such fabulous results. Having taught some of the students myself I saw at first hand the impact on the students of the sudden closure of the School and the cancellation of the examination season but that is in the past now and the students move on with wonderful, well-earned and fully-deserved A-Level results. I wish every student happiness and success and offer to each my warmest congratulations.



BGS VIRTUAL ORCHESTRA

Readers may recall the link I circulated in these pages a few weeks ago to a virtual orchestra performance in which Molly Welling, a former student, was playing. I was thrilled to see that our Music Department has had the same idea and we now have our very own virtual orchestra. Do please have a look at the following YouTube link, which should work on any device: <https://youtu.be/W2TdDjtDFfE>.

Not only have all the parts been combined to form an impressive, complete performance, several of the orchestral parts are played by more than one player ... a careful look at the images will confirm this. Our Director of Music, Mr Tomlinson, writes:

'*A Night of Music from the Stage & Screen* is one of the highlights of the School year, and 2020 would have been the fourth edition of this sell-out musical extravaganza. However, unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the School's subsequent closure we were unable to put on this popular event. I was absolutely devastated for the vast numbers of students who take part in this concert to not be able to showcase their musical talents and delight their audience as they always do.

With the 'virtual world' really taking off during lockdown I was keen to put something together with our students and so the BGS Virtual Orchestra was born. Keeping the film theme, I chose *Hogwarts Hymn* from *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, and Mr Jones expertly arranged it for our students. The musicians were then given a PDF of their part, an mp3 guide-track to play along with and a set of instructions for the recording process. Over the course of the following few weeks the students recorded themselves on their phones and uploaded their videos for me to collate together.

Using GarageBand, I mixed the many audio files together, balanced them and exported the master track. The video editing process was far more complicated, but using Final Cut Pro, I was eventually able to sync all of the videos together, and add the master audio file. The result is presented for your enjoyment. The students, Mr Jones and I are immensely proud of it. We hope you enjoy watching and listening to it.'