



17th August 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: A-level Results

We are delighted to share with you some of the outcomes today's A-level results and some individual stories of success and inspiration. In our third year of A-level results we are celebrating some excellent outcomes with our largest ever cohort of Year 13 students. Higher grades (A*- B) are up significantly (by 12%) to 32%. Our average grade is up from D+ to a C and our overall pass rate is 96%. This all means that Colmers is sending its highest number of students ever to university, including those from the Russell Group.

Our individual success stories show that, while A-levels remain arguably the toughest of all qualifications to gain, persistent hard work and resilience reaps rewards. Some of our greatest successes have been not just in replicating GCSE success at A-level but also in showing that, with self-belief, a supportive environment and expert teaching, students can make substantial progress between the ages of 16 and 19. In short, if a student is prepared to work hard and go the extra mile in our sixth form they will do well and they will go to the university of their choice.

We are so proud of every single student and have enjoyed sensing their excitement today as they have contemplated the reality that they are about to start new lives, many in brand new cities on courses that will determine the rest of their promising lives. But the stories of five individual students are worth sharing as role models and beacons for our students.

Firstly, congratulations to Lydia Thomas who achieved three A grades (History, Religious Studies and English Language & Literature) and an A* (EPQ). She is going to The University of Sheffield to read History. Then there is Chloe Fitzpatrick, whose similarly superb three A grades (Maths, English and Psychology) means she is off to The University of Birmingham to study Mathematics. Jessica Hames is moving north of the border to The University of Edinburgh to study Primary Education with History on the back of her wonderful two A grades (History and Geography) and B grade (English Language & Literature). Meanwhile, Rebecca Painter's fabulous results in Psychology (A*), English Language & Literature (B), Biology (C) and an A grade in her EPQ means she is looking forward to life at The University of Nottingham reading Biology. Finally, I must mention Bethany Gardner – her results have been amongst the most inspiring in our sixth form history because of the stunning progress she has made since her GCSEs that now allows her to begin The University of York St. John's to read English Literature having achieved B, C and D grades in her A-levels. As I keep saying, our future is not fixed and it's not about where we are from or what we have done, it's about where we are going and what we can do.

These are just a few of the individual stories that make up this year's A-level results and with very promising AS results amongst our Year 12s we look forward to even better results this time next year. Former Turves Green Boys' School's Ben Parker, for instance, provides the most striking role model for the next generation of our university-bound students with his four A grades in his AS examinations in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics. He and the rest of his year group have one more year to reach their goals and this year's results prove that hard work leads to success in our sixth form.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Doherty

Headteacher

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