



24th August 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: GCSE Results 2017

We are truly delighted to share with you some headlines figures and information regarding our latest GCSE results. We are very, very proud of our students and hope that today represents a truly happy and memorable day in their lives.

Inevitably, there are stories of great happiness and fulfillment, and also disappointments, sometimes in the same envelope. However, it remains important to mark and celebrate the Year group as a whole and particular individuals whose achievements give immense cause for pride in homes up and down our community.

This summer our students were amongst the first in the country to sit the new style GCSEs (Graded 9 to 1) in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics. We have been teaching and preparing for these new courses since September 2015, of course, and in all of that time every student, teacher and school has been required to cope with both massively increased expectations and uncertainty around exactly what to expect in terms of the types of questions and grade boundaries that will appear. There are many changes but some of those include a much greater emphasis on recall and problem solving within Mathematics – long winded conundrums as opposed to lists of straight forward sums! In English, our students needed to learn three books and sixteen poems, all by heart. But enough of that – this is true of every student and every school – exams have got much harder!

Despite all of those uncertainties our students and staff rose to the challenge! All the extra revision sessions, before school, after school, during school and during the holidays, paid off – particularly for those who chose to engage and ‘get stuck in’ to the business of revision and practise.

Some valuable headlines include...

- Thirty-one students achieved at least one Grade 7 in one or more of their new style GCSEs in English Language, English Literature or Mathematics. This includes nine Grade 9s (old Grade A*+) in English Language and Mathematics
- Two-thirds of all students achieved a Grade 4 or above in English Language *and* in Mathematics
- Sharp rise in the percentage of students now achieving two or more GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry or Physics
- Over 80% achieved Grades A* to C in French, alongside many other departmental and individual achievements

More specifically amongst our boys some of the results achieved were:

- Pravir Sohal, Head Boy - Grade 9 in both English Language and English Literature, a Grade 7 in Mathematics and a further eight GCSEs at Grades A* to B.
- Aaron Buckley - Grade 9 in English Literature and a Grade 7 in English Language, alongside a Grade 8 in Mathematics and a further eight GCSEs at Grades A* to B.
- Ciaran Mann - Grade 7 in both English Language and Mathematics, a Grade 8 in English Literature a further seven GCSEs at Grades A* to B.
- Ross Williams - Grade 7 in both English Language and English Literature, a Grade 8 in Mathematics as well as a further eight GCSEs at Grades A* to B.
- Dan Jones - Grade 6 in English Language, a Grade 9 in Mathematics and seven more GCSEs at Grades A* to B.
- Rafe Sullivan, Deputy Head Boy - Grade 7 in both English Language and English Literature, along with a Grade 6 in Mathematics and another eight GCSEs at Grades A* to B.

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And equally, amongst our girls some of the results secured were:

- Danielle Murphy, Head Girl - Grade 9 in both English Language and English Literature, a Grade 7 in Mathematics and a further eight GCSEs – two at Grade A and six at Grade A*.
- Kirsty Malkin - Grade in English Language, a Grade 8 in English Literature and a further eight GCSEs at Grades A* to B.
- Daisy Drennan - Grade 8 in English Language and English Literature with a further eight GCSEs at Grades A* to B.
- And finally, Joanna Gjini, who joined us in Year 10, finished Year 11 in style with a Grade 7 in both English Language and English Literature, a Grade 9 in Mathematics and four further GCSEs at Grades A* to B.

We now look forward to record numbers in the old Year 11 becoming members of our successful sixth form (please see last week's letter on A-level results). Please be advised that enrollment into our sixth form is live and ongoing right up until the very first day of term, which is **Wednesday 6th September at 8.42am** for all of your children. Any queries around **enrollment into our sixth form can be made directly to our Head of Sixth Form, Mr Tom Charlett, on tcharlett@colmers.school**.

I wish to finish by thanking my colleagues, teaching and associate staff. We are privileged to serve this community and your children and have done so with enormous commitment and enthusiasm during this era of very considerable changes in education. All involved in schools look forward to some settling down with GCSEs in the years to come and I feel sure this is a sentiment that is shared with you as families and by your children as they enter their own Year 11 GCSE examinations.

In September I shall be in touch again with some more information and one of the things I shall outline is the profile of those students most likely to achieve as expected. An individual's commitment to working hard in class has always mattered, but now, much more than ever before, success and disappointment hinges on how much is taking place outside of lessons – in booster sessions, at home and in the days and hours before each examination. These things make up to two grades difference for every child. More on that next year.

Until then, please enjoy the final days of the summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Doherty

Headteacher

