

Bedford Free School celebrate another fantastic set of GCSE results



Headlines:

- Passes at C+ and A+ increase again across most subjects
- 60% achieved a grade 4 or better in both of the new, tougher English & Maths GCSEs
- 36% achieved a grade 5 or better in both English and Maths
- 85% achieved a 4 or better and 70% achieved a 5 or better in English, bucking the national drop in the first year of the new tough GCSE
- Other highlights include:
 - o History 77% A*-C,
 - o Music 73% A*-C, and
 - o Drama 71% A*-C
- reflecting our belief in an academic, but broad and balanced curriculum that values the arts
- Fantastic performances by students from *all* starting points

Individual highlights include:

Sophia Peters – 2x9, 5A*(inc. straight A*s in Triple Science), and 4xAs

Luke Holloway - 2x9, 1x8, 4xA*, 3xA, 1xB

Jessica Bass – 2x9 (both English Language and English Literature), 1x7, 5xA*, 1xA, 2xB

Head Boy Caleb Savery - 1x9, 2x8, 4xA*, 4xA

Jessica Barton – 1x9, 2x8, 3A*, 4A, 1B

while the student who made the most progress during her time at BFS was Sanjeda Ahmed (1xA*, 4xB, 4xC)

Bedford Free School is delighted today to be able to announce another very strong set of GCSE results, with many measures up further again on last year's stellar performance.

The exam results today should place this cohort of students in line with, or above national averages even though they attained *below* national and local averages when aged 11, before they joined BFS: 60% achieved good passes in both English & maths with an incredible 85% making the grade in English.

Mark Lehain, Principal said: "We are really pleased with these results, both in terms of how individuals have done, and how the school has performed overall. In a time of exam change, with tougher GCSEs coming in, to see standards hold or rise is quite an achievement for everyone.

"We are more confident than ever that the unique offer at BFS - our smaller size, longer day, high standards of discipline, and caring culture – make the difference."

"Perhaps even more importantly, we know that students who attend BFS for GCSEs are well prepared for their studies afterwards. We were absolutely delighted to hear how well so many of the students who did GCSEs with us in 2015 have gone on to do in their A-levels and other studies."

Nigel Syson, Chair of Governors said: "These third, excellent, set of results is testimony once again to the hard work by all of those involved in Bedford Free School. They show that high expectations, firm discipline, and a commitment to the local community pay dividends. The Governors congratulate everyone today, and want to thank students' families and many other members of the local community for their support since 2012. In particular, we want to thank the staff of the school for the hard work and diligence that makes the difference to all our students."

Notes for Editors:

- There have been further considerable changes to the way schools are measured in terms of attainment and progress this year, and so we have only presented statistics where we can sensibly calculate them.
- The most important measure used by the Department for Education to judge secondary school performance nowadays is called "Progress 8" and, because this is calculated using all GCSE results across the country, will not be available until January. Given this, we have not published our estimate for this.