

## **Bedford Free School celebrate best ever set of GCSE results**

### **Headlines:**

- **66% achieved a grade 4 (pass) or better in both of the tough English & Maths GCSEs, an increase of 6%**
- **42% achieved a grade 5 (strong pass) or better in both English and Maths, an increase of 6%**
- **88% achieved a grade 4 or better and 66% achieved a grade 5 or better in English**
- **over 80% achieved a grade 4 or better in at least two science GCSEs in the first year of the new, tougher course**
- **46% of our pupils achieved grade 4 in the English Baccalaureate, an increase of 24% and significantly above the national average for this measure of broad academic success**
- **Passes at grade 4+ and 7+ increase again across almost all subjects**

**Very consistent high performance at GCSE across a wide range of subjects - other highlights include (all percentages grades 9-4): RE 95%, Music 90%, History 75%, PE 74%, Drama 71%, Maths 66% Geography 63%, Computing 61%, Spanish 60%**

### **Fantastic performances by students from all starting points**

Bedford Free School is delighted today to be able to announce another excellent set of GCSE results, with almost all measures rising again compared with last year's brilliant performance.

The exam results today should place this cohort of students well above national averages even though they attained below national and local averages when aged 11, before they joined BFS. 66% achieved good passes in both English & maths with an incredible 88% making the grade in English.

Stuart Lock, Executive Principal said:

"We are delighted 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 rise so significantly across almost every subject is quite an achievement for everyone. "This is an important milestone on our journey to becoming one of the best schools in the country. This is evidence that our unique offer at BFS - our smaller size, longer day, very firm standards of discipline, and collaborative culture - make such a huge difference.

"Today is testament to the hard work and dedication of the brilliant staff team at BFS, combined with the determination, resilience and industry of our departing pupils. Staff and pupils have really embraced the motto of the school, to 'go the extra mile'"

Nigel Syson, Chair of Governors said:

"These fourth, superb, 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. 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 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.

Almost all GCSEs have been reformed and now have much more challenging content. Grades are now awarded from grade 9 to grade 1. The bottom of grade 7 is equivalent to the bottom of the previous A grade. The bottom of grade 4 is equivalent to the bottom of the previous C grade. Grade 4 is considered a ‘standard pass’. Grade 5 is considered a ‘strong pass’. This is the second year of the new numbered grades in maths and English, and the first year in all other subjects. The English Baccalaureate measures the percentage of pupils out of the cohort who have achieved a grade 4 or better pass in all of the subjects of maths, English, two sciences, history or geography and a modern language.

A further press release containing highlights of individual pupils will be sent at approximately 12 noon on 23<sup>rd</sup> August

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