



BEDFORD  
FREE SCHOOL

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## **Bedford Free School celebrates “world-class” GCSE results**

### **Headlines:**

- **Best ever results at BFS**
- **65% achieved a grade 4 (pass) or better in both of the tough English & Maths GCSEs**
- **44% achieved a grade 5 (strong pass) or better in both English and Maths**
- **Well over 80% achieved a grade 4 or better in at least two science GCSEs**
- **50% of our pupils achieved grade 4 in the English Baccalaureate, significantly above the national average for this measure of broad academic success**
- **Passes at grade 4+, 5+ and 7+ increase again across almost all subjects**
- **Bedford Free School’s ‘class of 2019’ arrived at school at age 11 with starting attainment significantly below average, and are leaving at age 16 with attainment significantly above average**
- **Very consistent high performance at GCSE across a wide range of subjects - other highlights include (all percentages grades 9-4): English 79%, maths 72%, English literature 75%, Spanish 68%, French 93%, geography 71%, history 71%, computing 73%, RE 100%**

### **Some individual performances include:**

**William Briscoe: Seven grade 9s, a grade 8 and a grade 6**  
**Muhamad Jallow: Five grade 9s, three grade 7s and a grade 6**  
**Delna Biby: Four grade 9s, four grade 8s and a grade 7**  
**Amit Saroa: Four grade 9s, three grade 8s, a grade 7 and a grade 6**  
**Ibrahim Alagbari: Four grade 9s, two grade 8s, two grade 6s and two grade 5s.**  
**Toby Obisanya: Three grade 9s, five grade 8s and a grade 6**  
**Alex Loveday: Four grade 9s, four grade 8s and a grade 7**  
**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, an improvement on last year’s brilliant performance. This establishes a

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trend of four consecutive years of great results. This set of results is the best ever at Bedford Free School.

The exam results today should place this cohort of students well above national averages even though they attained significantly below national and local averages when aged 11, before they joined BFS.

65% achieved good passes in both English & maths with over 80% making the grade in Science. Attainment in maths, English, history, geography, Spanish, French, physics, chemistry and biology are all well above national average

**Tim Blake**, Principal, said:

"I am very proud of our school. The community of staff and pupils deserve the huge successes we are celebrating this morning. This is the outcome of five years of incredibly hard work. I am privileged to have worked alongside fantastic parents, pupils and my wonderful and committed staff team, all of whom have contributed to these achievements.

"Staff and pupils have really embraced the motto of the school, to 'go the extra mile'

"I cannot wait to see what this group of pupils goes on to achieve and contribute to Bedford and the country."

**Stuart Lock**, CEO of Advantage Schools, the Trust which runs Bedford Free School, said:

"We are delighted with these world-class results, both in terms of how individuals have done, and how the school has performed overall. To see standards rise so significantly again across almost every subject is quite an achievement for everyone.

"When the league tables are published with progress measures, this will place us alongside the best schools in the country. This is evidence that our unique offer at BFS - our smaller size, focus on knowledge, 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, led by Tim Blake and his exceptional Senior Leadership Team, combined with the determination, resilience and industry of our departing pupils."

**Nigel Syson**, Chair of Governors said:

"This brilliant fifth 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 pupils' 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.”

**Amit Saroa (and parents): Four grade 9s, three grade 8s, a grade 7 and a grade 6**



## William Briscoe: Seven grade 9s, a grade 8 and a grade 6





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**Delna Biby: Four grade 9s, four grade 8s and a grade 7**



**Notes for Editors: -**

There have been further 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, but the estimate is +0.73 according to calculations made by our Management Information System. This would place BFS around the top 2% of schools nationally.

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'.

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.

Interview requests to Stuart Lock, CEO, via [slock@advantageschools.co.uk](mailto:slock@advantageschools.co.uk)