

25th August 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: GCSE Results

Last week I wrote to you to celebrate some excellent A Level results. Today, I am pleased to announce that the GCSE grades awarded to our children today are also the best in the school's history.

This achievement is against a backdrop of two years of a global pandemic and a cost of living crisis, which have created unparalleled challenges for our school community. Yet despite this, our children have shown resilience, determination and a commitment to the systems and routines that support them to succeed. Their grades have improved at a time when many schools are understandably reporting drops.

56 students left Year 11 with strong passes in English and Maths (equivalent to the old B grade) compared to just 17 five years ago; a more than tripling in this core benchmark. For the first time ever, more than half the students left the school with standard passes in English and Maths (equivalent to old C grade), when only a third did so a handful of years ago.

During the pandemic, grades were awarded using teacher assessed grades, causing some national allegations of grade inflation and inspectors refusing to look at outcomes when they visited schools. However, The Abbey School's GCSE results this summer show a significant increase in exam performance to the last comparable year, 2019, demonstrating clearly improving results over time.

Category	2019	2022	Change
5+ A*-C grades inc Eng & Mat (4+)	43%	48%	↑5%
English & Maths Threshold (4+)	50%	55%	↑5%
EBacc (4+)	11%	16%	↑5%
EBacc (APS)	3.06	3.32	↑0.26 grade
A*-C / 4+ in English	71%	82%	↑11%
A*-C / 4+ in Maths	53%	61%	↑8%
Attainment 8	C- (37.25)	C- (39.28)	↑2.03 grades

Exam outcomes are not the only thing that matters in schools, but getting a good set of basic qualifications should be the bare minimum expectation for any school. Our results are up by between a fifth and a quarter of a grade across eight subjects since 2019, and we know that higher grades are linked to better incomes and long-term health. In short, there is no better way to secure the future for our children.

We are all very impressed by our students' achievements and they should take some time to reflect on the product of their hard work and tenacity. I would also like to thank the teaching staff, whose focus on consistency and good relationships has provided a touchstone to our children in a time of great uncertainty.

I am sure that you will all join with us and celebrate their achievements.

With best wishes,



Dr Rowland Speller
Headteacher