

A Level Success at King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School

The last 18 months have proved very challenging for many people, and students in this year's cohort have suffered more disruption to their education than any other since the Second World War. We have been very impressed by their resilience, their adaptability and their determination to make the most of their opportunities and abilities, despite their varying experiences of the pandemic.

We are therefore very proud of the outcomes that Handsworth Grammar students have achieved through a rigorous system of assessment devised by the Government and Examination Boards, to gauge candidates' learning and understanding in the absence of traditional examinations. Two of our students will be heading for Cambridge, and others have won places at prestigious universities of their choosing or on much-coveted apprenticeship schemes in a year of increased competition. Nearly 45% of all entries were A*A grades, 70% of all entries were A*A B grades with an overall pass rate of 99.8%. Nearly 40 students attained all A* A grades and 60 students attained all A* A B grades or higher.

Jasbinder Singh (Head Boy) has won a place at the University of Birmingham to read Medicine; Grace Roberts (Head Girl) has won a place at the University of Birmingham to read Mathematics; Hafsa Khulthum has won a place at the University of Birmingham to read Medicine; Catherine Wu has won a place at UCL to read Electrical Engineering; Priya Padwagga has won a place at Nottingham University to read Geography and Gabriel Dino has won a place at Durham University to read History. This is just a brief snapshot of the success enjoyed by the Class of 2021. They share a wide array of co-curricular commitments and accolades, in sport, music, charity, community service, mentoring, debating and enterprise. However, worthy of equal approbation are those who have had to contend with Covid-related illness, absence or hardship yet have nevertheless met or surpassed expectations and can now embark confidently on the next stage of their lives.

Our teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to do their best for the students in their care – whether in school or at home. Not only have they provided a high quality of creative teaching, both online and in person, but they have shown the greatest concern for the well-being of those in their care. There will be mixed emotions across the country this week at the culmination of a very demanding period faced jointly by students, teachers and parents, but there is much for which we can be thankful. Our young people have been rewarded for sustaining both effort and motivation, and their unique experience means that they emerge as more generous, caring individuals, thinking deeply about their world and ready to make a difference to the communities in which they live. We wish them all every happiness and success.

Dr Bird

Headmaster

August 2021