

## **What goes up must come down.... or so the saying goes!**

The news this week has been somewhat depressing and distracting for A Level students up and down the land with useful advice such as students being told to “brace yourself” as there will be a reduction in the number of “top” grades, more competition for university places, and more students dropping out of higher education because of previous years’ grading.

The news this morning was typically focussing on the decline in the number of A\* and A grades that have been awarded – with the steepest decline in England. Overall, there have been 73, 008 fewer top grades awarded in 2023 as compared to 2022. Or put another way as a proportion of grades in 2023 there have been 9.6% fewer A\* and A grades as compared to 2022 and 17.6% fewer as compared to 2021.

This is the Department for Education and Ofqual’s stated aim of moving the grade boundaries and proportion of grades back to where they were pre-Covid in 2019. Students in England have been the sharpest hit as compared to Wales and Northern Ireland.

With the above context in mind, we are delighted to share with you the A Level results which our Sixth Form students have received today. An impressive 22% of all grades were A\*A, nearly 50% of all grades were A\* - B, 72% were at A\* - C and 97% A\* - E. Three students attained straight A\* grades and there were 22 students whose grades were all A\* or A. We are delighted with the results and so proud of the achievements of our students.

The accomplishments of this year’s A-Level students at HGS are truly remarkable, especially considering that they were taking public examinations for the first time and had to face many interruptions over the past few years. This year saw the first return to normal exam conditions and A-level grading since the pre-Covid year of 2019 and the subsequent impact of CAGs, TAGs or assisted grading. We are proud that the 2023 percentages for A\*- A, A\*- B, and A\*- C are higher than in 2019 and we applaud the unwavering commitment of these students, their teachers and their outstanding achievements.

Thus, HGS has enjoyed and celebrates some outstanding A Level results again this year and our students will be taking the next steps in their academic careers in some of the most competitive and prestigious universities in the country. The following is a brief snap shot of just some of our students’ results and their university destinations as they appear on the UCAS website.

It is always slightly invidious to highlight particular students but we have had seven high attaining students secure places at the London School of Economics and Political Science to study Financial Maths and Statistics. Abubakhr, Anshdeep, Aman, Gurpartap, Cyril, Gurpal and Head Prefect Krishan who all attained straight A\* and A grades. These are superb results and they will be joining a world class university in the heart of London.

Rohan will be studying Computer Science with Digital Technology, at the University of Birmingham, in conjunction with global accountants PWC after attaining A\*AA. Avinash also attained A\*AA and will be studying Maths at the University of Birmingham.

Mohammed attained A\*AA, and will be studying Dentistry at the University of Birmingham. Another future dentist is Jay who also attained A\*AA and will be off to Plymouth to study Dentistry.

Jinyang and Aadam attained A\*AA and will be both going to the University of Warwick, where they will be studying Maths and Physics.

Sean will be studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Bristol following his A\*AB, and Mohammed will be going to the University of Birmingham to study Accounting and Finance following his A\*AA.

The majority of students have achieved a place at a university of choice or are holding revised offers.

This past year has been very positive given what our students have been through since 2020 and all the associated upheaval, unrest and uncertainty. HGS students have worked hard to get their results but also have enjoyed and contributed positively to school life. They have risen to the challenge of their first set of public exams and thoroughly deserve the results they have achieved. They can now go out into the world and be a force for good. Congratulations!

Stay well and safe.

Be kind to yourself and others.

Best wishes,

Dr Bird