

GCSE Excellence at King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School

We are extremely proud of our Year 11 students who have navigated their way through an incredibly difficult two years. This summer's GCSE exams were the first external assessments they sat under normal exam conditions. We are very proud of the resilience shown by Year 11 in order to arrive at this point in their careers and in preparing for their next step of their educational pathway.

We have always known that this year was a 'transition year' between 2021 (when assessment was done directly by schools and colleges) and 2019 which was the last time exams took place. This means that overall grades will be about halfway between the two nationally.

99.3% of candidates attained good passes (greater than or equal to a Grade 4) in English and Mathematics, over 95% of candidates achieved strong passes (greater than or equal to a Grade 5) in English and Mathematics, and over 95% of candidates attained 5 + passes including English and Mathematics. Our Attainment 8 Score is 73.96 and our Progress 8 Score is 0.41. This is an excellent set of results that are a marked improvement on the pre-COVID 2019 results. They are also better than the midpoint results that the Exam Boards said the results would be aimed at to gradually return results to 2019 levels on a national level.

Amar Aulakh achieved straight Grade 9's in every subject. Atharv Baghwala, Timothy Lowman, Faisal Khan and Manav Talwar all achieved Grade 9 and 8 in every subject. 14 students achieved all Grades 9 to 7 in every subject. These are wonderful achievements.

Our teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly over the last two years to do their best for all 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 and turbulent period faced by students, teachers and parents, but there is much for which we can be thankful and celebrate. Our students have been rewarded for sustaining both their effort and motivation with this unique experience meaning that they will emerge as more generous, caring individuals, thinking deeply about their world and will be ready to make a real difference to the communities in which they live.

We wish them all every happiness and success.

Dr Bird

Headmaster

August 2022