**2023 Press Release**

**BALLYMENA ACADEMY GCSE RESULTS**

GCSE results distribution was a happy occasion at Ballymena Academy where the grades achieved have lived up to the levels of achievement at GCSE in previous years and those grades awarded at ‘AS’ Level and ‘A’ Level in the previous week. Given the challenges which the young people had to face through their post-primary education and with Examination Boards seeking to return results to pre-pandemic standards, it was very pleasing and a real tribute to our pupils and staff, that the excellent outcomes obtained reflected very positively on the ability and commitment of the students.

Stephen Black, Principal of Ballymena Academy, congratulated the young people on their achievements and added how pleasing it was to see so many happy pupils in school to receive their results. “It is a great privilege to be able to pay tribute to our pupils, individually and collectively. It is important to remember that this year group of students has suffered huge disruption to their education and that these outcomes have been achieved through a period of great challenge. The resilience which they have shown is remarkable. These impressive results are a testament to the ability and commitment of our students, the dedication of our teaching staff and the support of parents. It is important to mention the good working relationships that are such an important feature of the life and work of this school. Such grades would not have been obtained without the professional approach and commitment shown by our staff and the consistent encouragement of parents as we all work together to ensure high levels of success for our young people.”

“The school has traditionally demonstrated academic excellence and this year, despite the difficulties faced, is no different.”

“In addition to the terrific individual performances highlighted below, which identify more than 40% of the year group as attaining 7 or more A\*/A grades in their nine GCSE full courses, there are many other high achievers not named here because of pressure of space, who should be commended and can look forward to Sixth Form with confidence.”

“It is especially pleasing that, despite the reduction in A\* and A grades nationally, close to 60% of all examinations sat were at A\* or A and, in a similar pattern to recent years, in 23 individual subjects the percentage of grades achieved at A\* - B exceeded N.I. Grammar School averages, indicating excellent performance across the curriculum.”

“This set of results also confirms that our young people are well-positioned to meet the challenges which our society faces as it moves out of the pandemic and to take advantage of the opportunities that the future will bring. For the vast majority, as in every year, that means entry to the Ballymena Academy Sixth Form whilst some others will take a different route; regardless of their choice, we extend our best wishes to all.”

**High Achievers**

Five young people achieved A\* grades in all nine of their GCSE full courses:- Olivia Drain, Grace Gunning, Finlay McCarroll, Jonathan Skelly and Ruby Thompson.

Thirty-six pupils achieved a minimum of 9A\*/A grades in their GCSE full courses – Ryan Anderson, Evan Andrews, Evie Arnold, Amy Baird, Leah Cotton, Ollie Eaton, Eric Gamble, Celine Goh, Ella Graham, Helena Graham, Lydia Gregg, Aidan Gribben, Shannon Hoey, Daniel Holden, Adam Hunter, Kristen Kelly, Hannah Kyle, Zoe Love, Rhys Macartney, Alexander Marks, Isaac McClintock, Luke McCorriston, Rachael McCue, Natalie McCullagh, Erin McGivern, Caitlyn McIntosh, Connor McKenna, Evie Millar, Lewis Millar, Luke Millar, Ella Mulholland, Maia Raine, Zach Shaw, Rachael Shields, Rachel Steele, Naomi Turtle.

They were closely followed by a further 17 young people with a minimum of 8 A\*/A grades in their GCSE full courses - Georgia Boyd, Hannah Brown, Hannah Faulkner, Samuel Francey, Peter Gamble, Alex Gibbs, James Gregg, Zara Kernohan, Erin Logan, Lucy McAllister, Katie McDowell, Luke McLaughlin, Chloe McNeill, Daisy Scott, Jamie Sims, Grace Warnock, Matthew Wright.

Finally, ten pupils obtained a minimum of 7 A\*/A grades in their GCSE full courses - Charlotte Agnew, Reuben Allen, Sara Beggs, Zoe Kirkpatrick, Jill MacCorkell, Joshua McDowell, Craig McQuillan, Jessica Redmond, Esther Weir, Harry Weir.

S.W. Black (Principal)