

Cowes Students Master New GCSE challenges - And Ace Old Measures



Students and staff at Cowes Enterprise College are celebrating today after receiving outstanding GCSE results, with students performing extraordinarily well in the new GCSEs in English and mathematics to achieve top grades.

Overall, 65% of students at the Academy achieved at least a Grade 4 English and maths, with a 4 the new grade set by the Government as a pass. The year group has exceeded all the former performance measures and, by comparison, are the most successful year in the history of the school to date, achieving record results.

There has been particular success in maths, where an impressive 73% of students achieved a Grade 4 or higher, which is up 11 percentage points on last year's results. Additionally, 48% of the students achieved a Grade 5 or above in maths.

In English, an amazing 75% of students achieved a Grade 4 or above in English, a further increase on last year, with 59% of students reaching a Grade 5 or higher.

Sixteen students at the academy scored at least one Grade 9, which is broadly equivalent to a very high A*, with two of them achieving a double Grade 9s in both English Language and English Literature.

Amongst the many successes of the day were some individual success stories, including:

- **Alice Doig** achieved an excellent set of results, with 2 Grade 9s in English and maths, as well as achieving 3 A*s and 2 As.
- **Rachael Phillips** also achieved 2 Grade 9s, which is the highest grade attainable in the new system, alongside 2 A*s and 2 As.

- **Lauren Hill** celebrated success, with 2 Grade 8s in English and maths, 4 A*s and 2 As.
- **Thomas Prince** achieved a Grade 9, a Grade 8, 3 A*s and 3 As
- **Jessica Bertazzo** also achieved highly, attaining a Grade 9, 2 Grade 8s, 2 A*s and 6 As.
- **Louis Ambridge** gained 2 Grade 8s, 4 A*s and 1 A

Outgoing Principal John Peckham said:

“I’m absolutely blown away by these results! The new, tougher GCSEs in English and Mathematics were always going to be a bit of an unknown and I won’t pretend that we were not quite apprehensive about how well our students would do. Given that, to have improved on previous years and shown that our students can do as well here as anywhere in the country, is fantastic.”

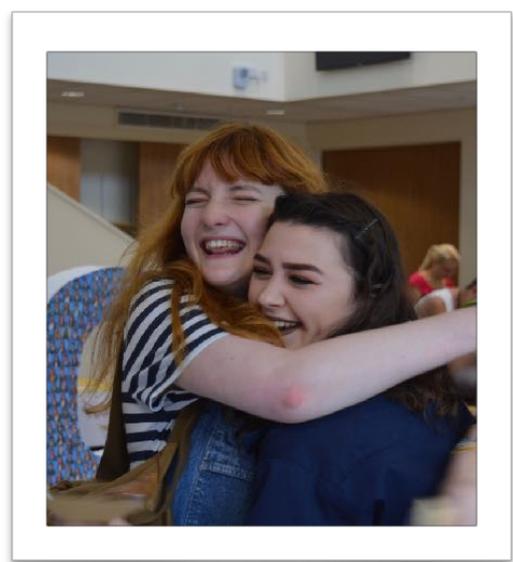
“Amongst the results achieved are lots of stories of triumph over adversity as well as plenty of good old fashioned hard work and revision. I’m enormously proud of all of our students and the staff who have worked really hard to make these achievements possible, I would also like to acknowledge the vital support we have received from the Ormiston Academies Trust, including some very specific extra resources that supported our teaching of the new specifications in English and mathematics.”

“We’ll be working hard in the next few days enrolling students onto our sixth form courses and, where necessary, supporting students into college or apprenticeships. We will also be looking hard at those areas where we know that in the future we can do even better in order to continue turning Cowes into the outstanding school that the Island deserves. It has been my privilege and pleasure to play a small part in helping that transformation and I wish my successor Rachel Kitley good luck as she takes over the Academy from September.”

Nick Hudson, Interim CEO of Ormiston Academies Trust, said:

“It is our absolute priority to ensure that every student fulfils their potential, no matter what their background, and we are delighted to see these results from Cowes Enterprise College.”

“Students, staff and parents deserve great credit for these results which reflect their commitment and determination to succeed and we look forward to building on these achievements year after year.”



Some individual stories:

Alice Doig

Results: English and English Literature – Grade 9, Additional Science and Religious Studies, A*, Science and History A, Maths 7, French B.



Alice's results, exceptional in themselves, are made more so by the fact that she had nearly two years off school because of illness. For most of Years 8 and 9 she was in hospital for an eating disorder and when she returned to Year 10, she was only able to come to school part-time for much of the year.

She managed to sustain her love of English throughout and tried to balance the study and revision she needed with a strong desire not to get over stressed because of her illness.

Alice said: "I could not have pulled through my illness without the support of my family and friends. My parents have been great and my friends did not give up on me, writing to me in hospital and remaining true and consistent. I'm also really grateful for the support I have had from my teachers and tutors."

Josh Lowings

Results: Literature Grade 5, English and Maths Grade 4, Religious Studies and History B, ICT and Science C. Business and ECDL – Distinction *



Josh's educational career has closely mirrored that of the Academy, which three years ago was in Special Measures. In Year 9, Josh was also in a bit of a mess, stuck in a friendship group where he felt he did not belong and going nowhere fast. After moving into Year 10 and choosing his subjects, he met new friends whose approach to learning was much more positive and went through a transformation in his progress.

Josh commented: "I'm really grateful to Mr Wright in History and Mr Doherty in English, both great teachers who believed in me. In History, at the start of Year 10 I was on a U grade which I managed to bring up to a D by the end of Year 10 and now I got a B in the exam. Their support and my new friends have helped me to properly focus on study."

Josh has a passion to work with animals and had completely ruled out his dream of being a vet. Having seen how much progress he has made with just one year of proper hard work however, he has lifted his aspirations and is planning to take science based subjects in the Cowes sixth form to pursue his ambition. He observed: "I was happy and surprised by how well I have done, now I know I can do much better and I have a real drive to do well."

