

GCSE SUCCESS AT WILLIAM BROOKES

Year 11 students have achieved the second best set of results in the school's history this year, with passes exceeding the rigorous targets set for the cohort. 71% of our Year 11s gained at least 5 higher grade passes at A* to C, with 64% gaining this mark including English and Maths. This year we have seen an increase of 8 percentage points over the 2007 result for this last measure, a very pleasing result considering that in 2007 the national average was only 46%. Students across the entire ability range also did well, with 96.5% gaining 5 or more GCSE passes at A*-G and 91% gaining at least 1 grade C or above. The average points score for each student will be equal to about 11 grade C equivalents. English, Maths and Science have all performed exceptionally well this year with an A*-C pass rate between 70 and 80%. ICT, the Performing Arts, especially Dance, Art and Design, History and RS have all been very successful this year too.

I am very proud of our students and the way they have worked towards these important examinations. Many students deserve special congratulations. Elspeth McGregor led the way with 9A*, 3A and 2 Bs. Natasha Gibbs and Laura Whitehouse gained 4 A*s each and a further 16 grade As between them. Other high performers include Colette Goodfellow, Rory Kelly, Lisa and Sophie Rhodes-Martin who gained 34 A/A* grades between them. Many students have grades that, although they are not this high, are very impressive in relation to their own ability. Most are ambitious to do the best they possibly can and they were very well prepared for the examinations by our committed staff team. More of them than ever before are returning to continue studying in the Sixth Form and they fully understand the importance of beginning life in the Sixth Form, Colleges or in work-based training from a high level starting point.

In addition, 31 out of 32 Year 10 students gained GCSE passes at A* - C, in Statistics, and a further 17 out of 18 passed Drama. This is an excellent achievement for them all and a great start to their first year of GCSEs.

My congratulations go to all our students and my thanks go to all staff, parents and governors who have again pulled out all the stops to assist each student in achieving their best. We wish you all well for a bright and happy future in the next phase of your busy lives.

Geoff Renwick

Co-Head

William Brookes School

21st August 2008