



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

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GCSE Results – Congratulations Year 11

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we look forward to welcoming our students back on Wednesday 6th September it gives me great pleasure to share with you the exceptional examination success achieved by our Year 11 students in their GCSEs this summer.

As a parent as well as a teacher I have felt for our exam students this year as they have had to contend with worrying national media stories about exam grading to add to the usual nerves leading up to results day. In a year that marked the return of external examinations to pre-pandemic grading in England Ecclesbourne students once again excelled. 90% passed GCSE English at grade 4 or above and 90% gained GCSE Maths. 33% of all GCSEs were graded 7 or above. 86% gained at least five good passes at grade 4 or above. Given that the government in England decided to return to pre-pandemic grading this year our students can be so proud of their achievement with 68% gaining a grade 5 or above in English and Maths compared to a national figure of 42% in 2019. We look forward to recognising their academic success and progress in this year's Prize Day celebration in September.

While we have a huge amount to celebrate, the most important thing is each individual student being able to be justifiably proud of themselves for what they have achieved. They have worked phenomenally hard, and they remained focused and calm through the turbulence we have all faced. Initial indications suggest that across the Class of 2023 students made excellent progress from their various starting points. Most importantly students now have the qualifications they need to support their next steps in the Ecclesbourne Sixth Form, at college or in employment.

To achieve this as a school and to do so consistently year in and year out, whatever the challenges we face together, we have to offer so much more than academic rigour. We believe that the ethos of our school is a powerful contributor to our students' success and resilience. Everything and everyone plays a part. It matters to us that Ecclesbourne is a place where the desire to learn and achieve is shared by all and is respected; where students develop the confidence to be house captains or wellbeing ambassadors or debaters, to perform on stage or compete in sport. The extra-curricular offer at this school is exceptional and so important in developing well rounded and resilient young people.

The 2023 GCSE cohort nationally have come through exceptional challenges. The latest government figures suggest that almost a third of Year 11 students in the country at large were persistent absentees from school, missing valuable tuition time and experiencing mental health and wellbeing issues. We know that to thrive children need to be happy and I would like to thank our staff for the care and support they have provided in very challenging circumstances this year. They have done all that they can to ensure students entered this critical stage of their education with confidence and calmness – and that approach has clearly helped our amazing students to shine.

We are thrilled with our students' success which continues The Ecclesbourne School's tradition of high academic achievement for all. Today's outcomes serve as a testament to the commitment of our students, the skill and dedication of our staff and Governors and the incredible support we receive from parents and carers. We wish all our Year 11 happiness and success in their next steps.

Yours sincerely

James McNamara
Head Teacher