

Bedford Free School celebrate best ever GCSE results



Headlines:

- **66% achieved C or better in both English & Maths (up from 60% last year)**
- **65% achieved 5 A*-C grades including Maths & an English (up from 57% last year)**
- **29% achieved 5 or more A*- Bs (up from 27% last year)**
- **84% achieved a C or better in English (up from 80% last year)**
- **67% achieved a C or better in Maths (up from 63% last year)**
- **Once again, really strong *progress* in the fundamental subjects of English & Maths**
- **Fantastic performances by students from *all* starting points**

Bedford Free School is delighted today to be able to announce another very strong set of GCSE results, well up on last year's first set.

The exam results today should place this cohort of students well *above* the national and town averages, even though they attained well *below* national and local averages when aged 11, before they joined BFS: 66% achieved good passes in both English & maths and 65% achieved 5 or more A*-C grades including Maths & an English.

Mark Lehain, Principal said: "We are delighted with how our students have done again this year. In particular, given their very low attainment before they joined BFS, these grades demonstrate excellent progress in a short period of time. It is still early days for us as a school, and we would never rest on our laurels, but we believe this is further evidence that our distinctive features make a big difference to our students."

"Our smaller size, longer day, high standards of discipline, and caring culture have all played a part in our success – provisional calculations suggest that on average students with us do roughly half-a-grade better per subject than they might have done elsewhere. Both in terms of attainment and progress, these outcomes are impressive."

"As well as the overall achievement, there were many brilliant personal performances. We are pleased to see so many students on track to go to top universities."

Nigel Syson, Chair of Governors said: "This second set of results is testimony to the hard work by all of those involved in Bedford Free School. They show that high expectations, firm discipline, and a commitment to the local community pay dividends. The Trustees congratulate everyone receiving results today, and want to thank students' families and many other members of the local community for their support along the way and for placing their trust in the school in its early days. They particularly wish to thank the staff of the school for the diligence and professionalism that every day makes a difference to our students."

Notes for Editors:

- There have been considerable changes to the way schools are measured in terms of attainment and progress this year, and so we have presented statistics where we can do reasonable comparisons with last year's results.
- The most important measure that will be used by the Department for Education to judge secondary school performance from 2016 is "Progress 8" – and, because this is calculated using all GCSE results across the country, will not be available until January. Given this, we have not published our estimate for this.