

Press Release –Advanced Level Results 2011

College Results Summary 2011 – outstanding results!

- * **Outstanding A Level results – yet again!**

- * **A Level pass rate over 96% with two thirds of students achieving the higher grades of A* - C.**

- * **25 students achieved the coveted A* grade at A Level – some gaining more than one A***

- * **100% pass rate across BTEC National Diploma subjects with three quarters of these students gaining merits and/or distinctions.**

- * **Outstanding performance of minority ethnic students who achieved 100% pass rates at A Level.**

- * **The gender gap in achievement has reduced again. The overall pass rate for males at A Level is less than 1% below the female overall pass rates and better than the national rate.**

- * **100% pass rates across Art, Design Technology and Photography with over 75% of students achieving grades A* to C**

- * **100% pass rates in languages and strong performance in sciences**

Male Students with Exceptional Achievements!

Nationally, female students continue to out-perform male students at almost every stage of education. Once again, males at the College are managing to close the A Level achievement gap, having reduced it to less than 1% this year. This represents a significant improvement as the difference in achievement at Key Stage 4 (GCSE) is over 10%. This is testament to the supportive environment of the College and the emphasis on an individual approach.

Principal, Helen Pegg, commented,

“Over the past few years we have developed our systems to support individual students. Every student really does matter to us. In particular, male students face many challenges and we recognise the need to adapt our approach to meet their individual circumstances and needs.”

Jordan Massey, formerly of Sandon Business & Enterprise College, is delighted to take his place at Manchester University studying Maths and Physics. Jordan was this year's college star in 'The UK Senior Maths Challenge' and was awarded a certificate for 'Best in School'. He also achieved a high enough score for automatic qualification in the British Mathematical Olympiad round 1. It's not surprising therefore, that he collected an A* in Maths A Level and an A grade in both Further Maths and Physics.

Moving on to top universities

Alice Bridgwood, formerly of Alleyne's High School, collected a superb set of A Level grades with two A* grades and an A. In September Alice will take up her place at the University of Cambridge, reading Philosophy. During her time at the Sixth Form College, Alice won the college prize and the best overall entry from all colleges at 'The Manchester Metropolitan University Creative Writing Final'. Judges, who included the Professor of English at MMU and Terry Fox, the Cheshire Poet Laureate, found her poem 'profoundly moving' and 'beautifully written'.

Jonathan Jones, formerly of Clayton Hall Business & Language College, gained an outstanding A* grade in both Maths and Further Maths and A grades in Physics and Computing A Levels. Jonathan is thrilled to take up his place at Durham University reading Maths along with Rachel Bowers, formerly of Endon High School, who also plans to read Maths at Durham after collecting an A* and two A grades in her A Level courses.

Duncan Davis, formerly of Trentham High School; A Co-operative Trust Science College, has set his sights high with the aim to complete a PHD researching Nanotechnology. Duncan collected A Levels in Physics at A* and Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry at grade A. In September, Duncan will start a MSci in Physics with Nanoscience at the University of Nottingham.

Anna Dickson, formerly of Wolstanton High School, collected a superb set of results - an A* in Psychology and A grades in Chemistry, Biology and Geography. Anna chose to study at the Sixth Form College because she felt it was the best place for her, she leaves us to study Biomedical Science at Manchester University.

The Sixth Form College Experience

At the College students have not just done well academically - they have also taken part in sport, music, travel, peer mentoring, fundraising, work experience and a host of other exciting opportunities and activities that help to develop their overall confidence and skills.

The College is non-selective and provides opportunities for Advanced Level study for students across a wide range of abilities and backgrounds. It provides the opportunity for excellence and achievement whilst also ensuring continuous personal development. A very high proportion of students progress to higher education whilst others are successful in gaining employment on the basis of their achievements.

Director of Student Guidance and Support, Nigel Mansfield comments,

*"In some ways we're most pleased about those students who did well **in spite** of difficulties. It's a real achievement if you have to overcome health problems or personal difficulties at the same time as studying. We're really proud of how so many of our*

students managed to do this - they do get lots of help in college of course, but in the end it's their determination that has enabled them to succeed."

Help for those in need in a challenging year for university entrants

This year there is even more intense competition for university places nationally. Applications are up again this year and many universities have raised their entry requirements.

We are fortunate in having developed close links with local universities who are prepared to support our Results Day and to provide on-the-spot advice and offers to our students. We are most grateful that Keele University are in attendance at the college today and Staffordshire and Manchester Metropolitan Universities all have staff available to our students at the Cadman Building of Staffordshire University on College Road. This service will be available to our college students on results day in order to meet students and parents who have a questions or concerns.

Some individual results will mean that students will not win their first choice place at University. The college provides its students with a **Clearing Clinic** where a team of specialist staff are available to assist students and parents who are disappointed in the results achieved. On Monday 23rd August the college on Leek Road is open to students and parents until 6.00 pm for further advice and guidance. Phil Maddocks (Careers and Progression Advisor) and Claire Thorne (Connexions) head the team. Phil commented,

"As is widely reported in the media, this is a particularly challenging year for University entrance but we will be working hard with our local universities and others to secure places for our students. As a result of this partnership, we are working together as a team in the best interests of our students."

Congratulations to All

College Principal, Helen Pegg, offered her warmest congratulations to all students on their success. She commented,

“Once again our students demonstrate that hard work and effort pays off. We congratulate them together with their parents and former schools.

I would also like to acknowledge the work and commitment of all the staff at college who have played a significant part in helping to prepare and support students in order that they achieve their full potential”.