

NEWS RELEASE

Heathfield School commends GCSE students for showing ‘grit, determination and character’

Heathfield School in Ascot – rated ‘Excellent’ across all areas by the Independent Schools Inspectorate – is commending its GCSE students and staff for the grit, determination and character they have shown in facing the personal and wider challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Their hard work resulted in success across a broad range of subjects – with 63% of students awarded grades 9-7 - as well as a host of exceptional individual performances and personal triumphs.

From Art, to Drama and Ancient Greek, this year’s GCSE cohort at Heathfield have had the opportunity to study a vast array of subjects, reflecting the school’s dedication to providing a personalised education which enables girls to succeed wherever their passions lie.

Standout academic performances include those by Lily, who attained the highest grade of 9 across all her subjects; Maya, who achieved 9s and 8s and was awarded Academic Scholar status; Claudia who gained an 8 in Classical Civilisation, Ancient Greek and a 9 in Latin, and Eira, who was unable to speak English three years ago and went on to achieve results that include four grade 9s as well as the top award in the Maths Olympiad for the school. Overall, over half of all students in this year’s cohort achieved all 9-7 grades (A*/A equivalent), namely Tilda, Auriel, Lily, Louise, Eira, Stephanie, Claudia, Tamara, Maya, Sienna and Zahra.

A number of younger girls took GCSE examinations ‘out of year’ and all achieved an outstanding 9, including Rosaleen (Form III) who excelled in music - she plays three instruments and attends weekend sessions at the Guildhall of Music - and Lucy and Romy (Form IV) who took their French examinations a year early.

Heathfield girls have continued to shine in creative subjects, with grades 9-7 awarded to all students studying Art. Drama also featured strongly among this year’s cohort, with over half of all students opting to develop their talents in this area. Tamara and Louise, who both attained 9s in Drama, took lead roles in the school’s production ‘Sweet Charity’, giving a poignant performance with the rest of the cast on the evening before lockdown.

Character development underpins every aspect of a boarding education at Heathfield and equips young women with the skills and mindset to find their fortes and fulfil their potential both inside and outside the classroom. Participating in sport is a key element of this ethos and a number of girls stand out for their aptitude in this area. Auriel, who achieved all 9-7 grades including a 9 in Physical Education and Combined Science, was part of the 1st Lacrosse team for Heathfield, alongside teammates Cesca, Scarlett and Roxy who also performed strongly in PE and other

subjects. Adelaide, a gold medal national champion in Tae Kwon Do, excelled in Maths and Further Maths, gaining a 9 and 8 respectively.

Commenting on this year's achievements, Heathfield's Headmistress Marina Gardiner Legge said, "I am so very proud of this year group and their results, which they have earned despite facing numerous hurdles and personal challenges. These young women have triumphed both in their studies and in their individual development, thanks to their grit, determination and character. There is so much to celebrate about all young people and the fortitude they show in the face of adversity, as this whole process has shown.'