



BURY
GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

GCSE

A TALENTED YEAR GROUP ACHIEVING HIGH STANDARDS THROUGHOUT THEIR GCSE COURSES

Our fantastic Year 11 pupils were the first cohort to go through a three year GCSE programme, which had been designed to give them more time to explore subjects in greater depth and go beyond the confines of GCSE. Our young people, families and teachers all showed enormous resilience, patience and level-headedness as pupils progressed through their course without any certainties regarding how they would ultimately be assessed. We are thrilled with the standards our pupils reached and impressed by the personal qualities they displayed. Please read more about their achievements in these pages.

- The average result achieved by a BGS pupil at GCSE was once again a grade 7 (grade A).
- There were more show-stopping grade 9s (A**) than any other grade – a grand total of 318 in all.
- Twenty-two pupils celebrated with a clean sweep of grades 9 and 8 (A**/A*).
- Getting on for half of all results were grades 8 and 9 (A*-A**).
- More than a third of BGS pupils had a clean sweep of the top grades, 7-9 (purely As and A*s).
- Overall, four in five grades were at grade 6 (B) and above.
- Nine 9s. Four pupils achieved the quite extraordinary feat of a full house of the very top grade 9 (A**) Many congratulations went to Ciya, Katie, Adam and Saifullah.



Quotes from the Head:

Mrs Jo Anderson, Principal and Headmistress, said,
Many congratulations to our GCSE pupils on some outstanding grades during one of the most challenging periods any of us had ever faced. We were so proud of all of them. So many factors had been integral to this year's GCSE success – among them, our young people's resilience and hard work, our teachers' ingenuity and flexibility, the pastoral and health teams' care and support, and our academic team's approach to working their way through the myriad of challenges presented by a whole new examination system. Above all, the key was that pupils, parents and teachers worked together during the pandemic, ensuring that learning continued remotely and that we continued to nurture each other's positive mental health as carefully as we would do in 'normal' times. I was struck by our pupils' confidence in what they did kept our pupils calm and allowed them to flourish. The three-year GCSE programme was also instrumental in pupils' success. Early on in the pandemic, we urged our pupils to be positive and said that, by continuing to focus on their learning they would be looking after their future selves. I was so proud to note this was exactly what they did and, as a consequence, bright futures lie ahead. Well done, everyone!

Mr Devin Cassidy, Vice Principal and Headmaster said:

'I warmly congratulated the pupils and their teachers for these quite remarkable results. Beneath the headlines there were many personal stories of perseverance, resilience and teamwork which resulted in so much personal success for so many. But one should also remember that underpinning these results were great partnerships between school, pupils and parents, which were so vital for success. Thank you to everyone who played their part in supporting and enriching our pupils' lives and we look forward to hearing of more success as their journeys continue in our Sixth Form.'



EXCELLENT GRADES IN AN UNUSUAL YEAR

Bury Grammar sixth formers celebrated stunning A Level results again in 2021, following 18 months of upheaval, remote learning, and a significant number of logistical and personal challenges overcome. As we all know, no-one was unaffected by the pandemic. We were immensely proud of every single one of our students for whom the average grade was once again an A, in line with previous generations'.

- The average grade at A Level at Bury Grammar School in 2021 was an A in line with previous generations.
- There was a 100% pass rate.
- 28.4% of grades awarded were A*s.
- More than four in ten sixth formers achieved the feat of straight As and A*s and well over half of all results, 57.2%, were grades A and A*.
- Over 80% of grades reached the 'gold standard' of A* to B.

Quotes from the Head:

Mrs Jo Anderson, Principal, said

No two teachers or pupils had the same experience during this extraordinary year, and it is also true to say that no-one was unaffected by the pandemic. It was humbling to note the success achieved by our students, the extent and number of personal challenges overcome and the way in which students, parents and teachers had all quietly worked together to support each other. We were just over the moon for every student who had completed their course and was healthy, happy and prepared to embark upon the next exciting stage of their journey.

The future looks bright, given this is a generation of young people with a social conscience and who are level-headed, resilient, hard-working and generous of spirit. Congratulations to every young person who received their A Level grades, to their family, their teachers and everyone who supported them.

Mr Devin Cassidy, Vice Principal, commented

These results were absolutely stunning from a cohort of pupils who needed to be resilient, focussed and committed throughout a period of unparalleled disruption to learning. It was also testament to the complete dedication of their teachers, who had ensured that learning had continued seamlessly during this period; the support our students received was quite remarkable. I wish them all well and urge them to remain connected to their old school and to keep us updated as their futures unfold. My very warmest congratulations to them all.

We were delighted that our students' and teachers' 'can do' approach, resilience and immense hard work had deservedly resulted in some fabulous outcomes.



We hope that all BGS students, teachers and parents felt very proud of their achievements. Many congratulations to everyone!



100%
PASS RATE ONCE
AGAIN AND EXCEPTIONAL
UNIVERSITY SUCCESSES

Aspiration, leadership, and resilience are the core values of our Sixth Form and the departing Year 13 cohort had displayed these in abundance throughout their two years with us. Not only had they achieved academic success and led The School as Senior Prefects, they had also demonstrated resilience during what had been a challenging two years. Congratulations Year 13 – we miss you!
Mrs Holly Hammond, Head of Sixth Form

A
LEVEL

The key aim of BGS Sixth Form is to prepare students to win places on the course and at the university of their choice and it appears that the vast majority of students have, once again, succeeded in gaining a place on the course and at the university of their choice.

Bury Grammar School continues to provide excellent preparation for our students committed to studying the most competitive courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Law.

UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES 2021



Nearly 100% of students one place on their first or second choice course. The vast majority of BGS students are going on to Russell Group universities

Our Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl, School Captain and Deputy School Captain headed to their 1st choice.

Lucy, Head Girl, achieved 3 A*s and is reading Management at Loughborough University
Bola, Deputy Head Girl, achieved A* A* A and is reading Medicine at King's College, London
James, School Captain, achieved A* A A and is reading Veterinary Medicine at University of Glasgow
Kofi, Vice School Captain, achieved A* A A A and is reading History at University of Bristol.



We were so proud of Mercy, Eva, Jenna and Henry who received four A*s. Tremendous!!

Mercy headed to Cambridge University to read Engineering
Eva is studying Psychology and Marketing at Lancaster University
Jenna went to the University of Warwick to study Management
Henry headed to the University of York to study Law.

Eva quite rightly told us "Hard work pays off in the end!"

Social sciences were extremely popular this year as nearly a third of BGS sixth formers are reading Business, Economics or Management.

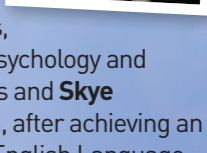
Ed is studying Economics and Management at Loughborough University
Bailey is studying Marketing and Management at Newcastle University.



Edward went on to Air Transport and Commercial Pilot training. Edward said "Enjoy school while you can, it goes by in the blink of an eye."

Ella and Skye both headed to the University of Liverpool.

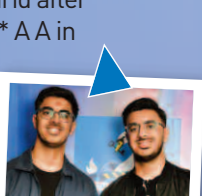
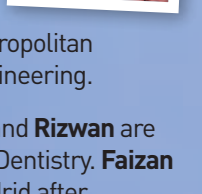
Ella received an A* AA in Business, Economics and Psychology and is studying Politics and **Skye** is reading English, after achieving an A B B in Politics, English Language and English Literature.



Inspired by our Head of the Social and Computer Sciences Faculty, **Ella** told us the secret to her success was "Always listen to Mrs Whitlow!"

Congratulations to our future engineers!

Mercy achieved 4 A*s and headed to Cambridge University to read Engineering
Ania went to The University of East London to study Biomedical Engineering
Ibrahim headed to University of Manchester to read Chemical Engineering
Sami chose Loughborough University to study Automotive Engineering
Alex went to Swansea University to read Aerospace Engineering
Zach headed to Manchester Metropolitan University to study Software Engineering.



Twins **Faizan** and **Rizwan** are both studying Dentistry. **Faizan** headed to Madrid after achieving A* A* A A in Chemistry, Physics, Economics and EPQ and **Rizwan** to the University of Plymouth after achieving 3 A*s and an A.

GCSE

GCSE grades overall were truly impressive, which made it extremely difficult to pick out just a few academic departments, but the following results were, in particular, worthy of note.

Stunning standards in STEM

- In the separate sciences, around nine in ten grades were grade 9-6 (A**-B): Biology 93%, Chemistry 86% and Physics 87%. This bode very well for a year group who were opting for A Level sciences in large numbers.

Mr Andy Watts, Head of the Science Faculty, said, *"The outstanding results this year were testimony to the hard work of our amazing pupils and superb staff. Our pupils should be delighted with their results and we look forward to welcoming record numbers of them back into A Level sciences."*

In Further Maths, the subject which sets our STEM pupils apart from others at GCSE, pupils enjoyed 87.5% grades at 9-6 (A**-B).

Mr Pete O'Sullivan, Head of the Mathematics Faculty, added, *"We were delighted to see so many pupils achieving top grades in mathematics, reflecting the superb efforts that this year group had made during a uniquely challenging two-year period. There were many talented mathematicians going on to study Mathematics or Further Mathematics A Levels and we hope to see some of them aiming to emulate recent BGS Sixth Form Mathematics students who have gone on to study Mathematics or associated subjects at Oxford, Cambridge and other top universities. Well done, Year 11."*

Amazing achievements in the Arts

- In Drama and Religious Studies, more than 90% grades were at 9-6 (A**-B); 90.5% in Drama and 90.9% in R.S.
- In English Language and English Literature, two subjects taken by every single pupil, 85.2% and 85.9% respectively of grades were 9-6 (A**-B), setting pupils up marvellously for the future.
- Continuing the trend of strengthening standards in modern languages, this year's German results were incredibly impressive and demonstrated an upward trajectory over a number of years, with 88.2% grades at 9-6 (A**-B).

A bright future ahead

Sixth Form awaited our fantastic pupils and we were confident that our pupils had the potential to excel again at the next level. A record number of our students went into BGS Sixth Form this year. We can't wait to see what this generation can achieve in Sixth Form and beyond!

VALUE ADDED

*"Value added" refers to the difference between a pupil's expected grade and the actual final grade they achieved. These IQ tests, or tests of 'innate' ability are carried out by the CEM Centre; they were pioneered by the University of Durham, and more recently, the University of Cambridge has been involved. The hallmark of a Bury Grammar School education has long been very strong value added, demonstrating the difference our teachers and school environment make to pupils' progress. This year, the GCSE class of 2021 have really surpassed themselves. There are an astonishing 317 more grade 9s [A**] than these 'IQ' tests predicted and 481 more grades 8-9 [A*-A**] overall.*

A LEVEL

Once again, Bury Grammar Sixth Form students succeeded in a whole range of subjects, reflecting the eclectic mix of our Sixth Form.

- Further Maths and German had a full house of 100% A* grades.
- All three challenging modern language A Levels - French, German and Spanish - along with Theatre Studies, had a clean sweep of 100% A and A and A* grades.
- In what is becoming a Bury Grammar School trend, in the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) - which is very highly valued by universities because it demonstrates independence of thought and excellent research skills - every single grade was once again either an A or A*.
- Computer Science, Geography, Music and Religious Studies also achieved outstanding results with 100% grades at A*-B.

90+

More than 90% of students obtained a place on their 1st or 2nd choice course, the majority at Russell Group universities.

1/3

Social sciences were extremely popular this year as nearly a third of BGS sixth formers are reading Business, Economics or Management.

1/10

One in ten of our students were inspired to gain places on health-related courses - in Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Genetics and Nursing.

1/6

One in six BGS sixth formers are pursuing STEM courses in Higher Education - Engineering, Pure Mathematics, Physics and Computer Science.

3

Three students are reading Law.

Reflecting the range of interests of our students, other popular university courses for BGS students included Marketing, Psychology, Modern Languages, English, Criminology, Drama, Fashion Design and Politics... and the vast majority stayed in the North.

Our A Level results demonstrated once again the strength of every department and the university courses chosen by our students reflected the diverse nature of our student body.

Alongside their studies, a number of our students also found time to volunteer in hospitals and care homes, help make PPE and write to elderly people who may have felt lonely during the pandemic.

REFLECTIONS



Jennifer said: *"BGS is a family. They have supported me throughout my education from the age of 3 and now I'm off to Durham University. I've had 16 years of non-stop enjoyment. Thank you!"*



Rayaan Sadiq said: *"I've had a brilliant 13 years at BGS and loved every minute of it."*



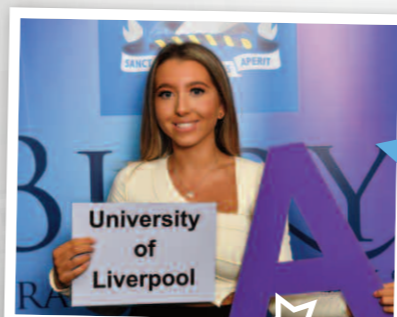
Katie Bishop said: *"I'd like to thank all my teachers because without them I wouldn't have made it."*



Lucy, Head Girl, said: *"15 years at Bury Grammar wasn't long enough! It's no coincidence that I was able to obtain such amazing results at BGS."*



Mercy said: *"I will be studying Engineering at Cambridge. Over the past two years school has provided so much support during the pandemic, despite my struggle to keep up with the pace and online learning. I am so grateful. My advice to younger years would be that 'your best will always be good enough' and to 'use all the help you can get.'"*



Message from The Governors of the Bury Grammar Schools: *"It has been a memorable academic year in so many ways and the Governors were delighted to learn of the wonderful successes at A level and GCSE achieved by the young people of Bury Grammar Schools."*

Our sincere congratulations must go to the students and pupils who have worked so hard, to the Leadership Team and all the staff who worked tirelessly, sharing their subject expertise and pastoral care, and a huge thanks to the support staff also.

We wish students further success, as they move on to the next stage in their education. Well done every single one of you!"

A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

So what might the future hold for the next generation of Bury Grammar pupils?

- Continuing positive relationships between teachers, pupils and parents: a winning combination
 - Inspiring teaching and solid support for learning
 - A three year GCSE course which allows pupils to go beyond GCSE syllabuses and also creates that precious commodity of more time
 - More teaching time at A Level than might be possible elsewhere
 - Expert support from our Sixth Form and Careers Team
 - Continued success in examinations
 - A continuing trend of fabulous university outcomes
- In essence, giving our young people the very best start in life.



BURY GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

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SUCCESS AT BGS

