



‘A day for celebration and joy’ as students receive long-awaited GCSE grades

Tupton Hall School students were rewarded for their hard work when they collected their eagerly awaited GCSE results. This year’s cohort missed out on the chance of sitting their exams, with grades based instead on past performance and teachers’ predictions.

Headteacher Mr Andrew Knowles commented: “I am delighted and relieved that our students are finally receiving the grades that they deserve. After the disappointment of cancelled summer examinations and anxiety over how grades would be awarded, this is a day for great celebration and joy. Our students have earned these grades, and we congratulate all of them on their achievements.”

He explained that the centre assessed grades reflected students’ abilities, attainment and progress in assessments, mock exams, homework, classwork and application throughout their studies. Grades were sent to the examination boards following a rigorous checking process to ensure that each student was treated equally and fairly. This included subject teacher estimates, faculty leader moderation of grades, senior leaders cross moderation and final agreement by the Headteacher.

Mr Knowles added: “I am very satisfied that our students are receiving the grades that they have duly earned and I thank staff for their professionalism and diligence throughout this process.”

“After an unprecedented end to their Year 11 studies we now hope that all of our students can progress on to their chosen destination; either into sixth form, college, training providers or apprenticeships. We are here to help all of them take this next step with renewed confidence, self-belief, ambition and aspiration.”

“Together with our Year 13 students, these young people have had to deal with great adversity and therefore deserve all of our efforts and resources to support them. The staff here are very proud of our students. They have shown great resilience and strength during the Covid-19 crisis which will be needed for the foreseeable future. We wish them all well and once again congratulate them on their achievements.”

- Libby Morrell was the highest ranked student in the year group, achieving an astonishing 8 grade 9s. Collecting her results she beamed: “I’m really happy! I’m so surprised because I just didn’t know what to expect with all the uncertainty that has led up to today.” Libby is considering a career in law but is keeping her options open by taking A Levels in Spanish, Sociology, English Literature and Law. She starts at Tupton Hall Sixth Form in September. She added: “I have always tried really hard at my school work but also tried to enjoy it as well – that way it doesn’t feel like there’s as much pressure.”

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- Another of the highest ranked students, Andrew Carter, achieved the unthinkable – studying for 9 GCSEs and an A Level. His final results comprised **five grade 9s, three grade 8s, one grade 7 and an A* in Maths A Level**. Andrew said: “I think my friends thought I was crazy, and it did feel like a lot of work at times. I had to do some studying at home because I couldn’t fit everything into my school timetable and the teachers have been really supportive as well as my family.” From September Andrew will continue his studies at Tupton Hall Sixth Form, doing A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Further Maths. He added: “It’s been a long six months away from school and obviously disappointing not to be able to sit exams. But I’m happy with what I’ve got and I will get the chance to achieve again at the end of my A Levels.”
- Lydia Stone is another high-achiever who will carry on to study at Tupton Hall Sixth Form. She achieved **two grade 9s, two grade 8s, 3 grade 7s and one grade 6**. Lydia said: “I’m amazed at some of these grades – I’ve gone up a grade in some subjects compared to my mock results.” Lydia will take A Levels in English Language, English Literature, Sociology and Drama. She has hopes of being a teacher one day, inspired by her GCSE English teacher Mr Newton. She added: “I can relax for a bit now. It’s been stressful so I’m happy the wait is over.”
- Dedicated student Hannah Spencer’s hard work paid off as she opened her results envelope to reveal **seven grade 9s and a grade 8**. She said: “School has been great. When I came to the Year 6 open evening all those years ago I wanted to skip Year 6 and start at Tupton Hall straight away - I knew I would love it.” “The teachers have always been so supportive. I always know they are on my side. I can’t wait to start sixth form now.” Hannah will study A Levels in Maths, Drama, Psychology and Law at Tupton Hall Sixth Form.
- James Wilbourne said he was glad to be back in school after the sudden lockdown took away his chance to properly finish Year 11. “We made the most of the last day and we will have our prom next year – although by then it will be more like a reunion,” he said. James achieved stunning grades: **seven grade 9s, one grade 8 and one grade 7**. He said: “I wasn’t expecting that many 9s! My mocks went well but with all the changes and uncertainty around A Levels in the last few weeks I didn’t know what to expect. But I trust the teachers and the process – they know what I would have achieved.” James’ grades take him to Tupton Hall Sixth Form where he will embark on A Levels in Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. “These have always been my favourite subjects,” he said, “I hope to go into science and engineering after university.”

Many students made impressive progress from their starting points on arrival from primary school. Alex Robinson put his **five grade 8s, two grade 7s and one 6** down to ‘a lot of hard work.’ He will do A Levels in German, PE and Chemistry from September and hopes his ability in languages will guide his career path.

While many students will continue their studies at Tupton Hall Sixth Form, others are going to college to study vocational courses and apprenticeships.

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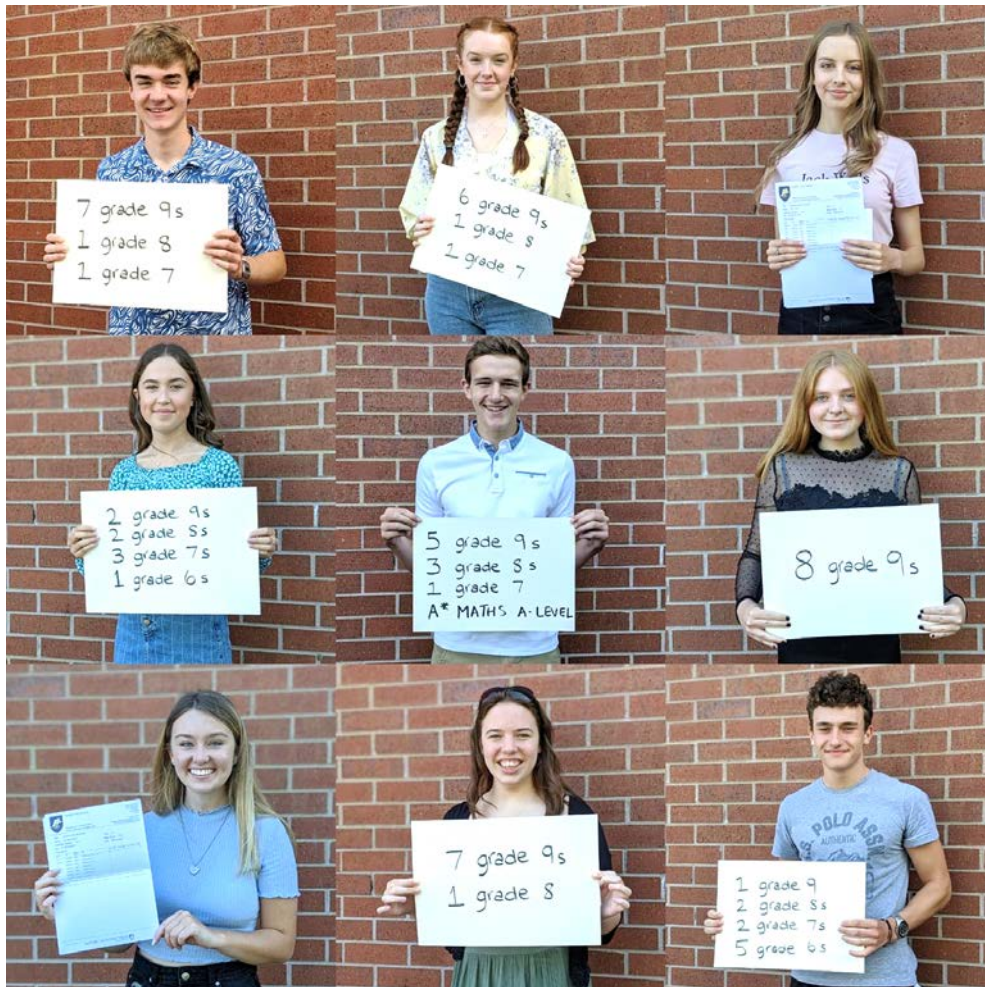


Other high performing individuals:

- Libby Morrell: 8 grade 9s
- Chloe Wakeling: 8 grades 9 to 7
- Kieraan Pattar: 8 grades 9 to 8
- Joshua Davis: 8 grades 9 to 6
- William Nelson: 8 grades 9 to 6
- Andrew Musk: 8 grades 9 to 6
- Caleb Milburn: 8 grades 9 to 7
- Alicia Hart: 9 grades 9 to 5

Other students making outstanding progress from their Year 7 starting points:

- Alex Robinson: 8 grades 8 to 6
- Evie Twell: 8 grades 8 to 6
- William Fisher: 8 grades 9 to 6
- Sophie Kenward-Sullivan: 8 grades 9 to 5
- Brooke Gregory: 8 grades 8 to 5







Cause for celebration as A Level students enjoy their moment in the spotlight

Following months of uncertainty, the class of 2020 came back to school to receive their A Level results. The celebratory mood was slightly subdued as students adhered to social distancing measures to collect their envelopes. But there was much cause for celebration as the school has seen some outstanding individual achievements, with results broadly in line with historic trends.

Overall, the percentage of A* - B grades awarded was 49% and the pass rate was one of the highest ever, at 99.6 per cent.

Behind the headline figures are many hard-working and inspirational young people who are now looking ahead to bright and varied futures. Despite not having been able to sit their exams, many students were extremely pleased with their results – a welcome relief after months of anguish and uncertainty during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Charlotte Burton, said: “We are very proud of our students because of the people they are - the kindness, responsibility and maturity they have shown in these challenging times. They have had so much to deal with; the anxiety caused by the speculation about the results has resulted in a great deal of worry for the students.”

“However, these results are very pleasing and there is genuine cause for celebration. Tupton Hall Sixth Form has a long and sustained record of success with A Level results and this year - even without the exams - the results and our students demonstrate the success of our provision.”

“No one could have foreseen what was to happen when the Government locked down the country in March and schools closed for all students except those of key workers. Most people thought the exams would go ahead and students would get to enjoy their final months in school. But as the weeks passed it became painfully clear that the Year 13 cohort had left school and finished their education with us. They missed out on those summer days with friends, the school prom, a leaving assembly and of course exams.”

“Whilst we all know students are not always positive about the examination process, we must acknowledge that this is how they show their ability and shine; they did not get the opportunity to do that this year.”

“What our students did instead was support each other in amazing ways: creating new ways to talk to each other via social media and virtual meetings; reaching out to the vulnerable in their communities; caring for younger siblings and putting their immense talents to good use. They might not have sat exams but they all grew up and matured into wonderful adults who truly appreciate the value of friendship and community.”

Tupton Hall Sixth Form is one of the most inclusive Sixth Forms in Derbyshire, welcoming students from as many as 11 local schools. Students have the opportunity to choose from a diverse range of A Level subjects and to set their own goals.



Many Tupton Hall students are now heading to universities across the country to study subjects as wide ranging as architecture, popular music, forensic science, film making, politics, archaeology, law and history. Others are beginning their careers by embarking on apprenticeships in fields such as health & social care nursing and legal administration.

Mr Andrew Knowles, headteacher of Tupton Hall School, said: “We are delighted for our students after a traumatic end to their Post 16 experience with us. Their efforts and hard work over the two years of study have been duly rewarded. We are all very proud of this wonderful group of individuals. I would also like to thank our highly skilled staff and supportive parents and families who have supported our students throughout this time.”

- Eszter Kenez has studied for an incredible 5 A Levels, securing grades A* in Spanish and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), As in History and Media Studies and a D in Maths. In September she will go to study Filmmaking and Screen Writing at the University of the West of Scotland. She said: “I have been a bit nervous during lockdown but am just grateful that all my family stayed safe. Getting my results today has been a big relief and I’m really pleased to see everyone after so long.”
- Jen Shaw is one of this year’s highest achievers and now has a place at one of the country’s top universities – The University of Oxford – where she will read History. Her grades were A*s in History and English Literature and a B in Maths. She said: “Tupton Hall Sixth Form is a lovely, supportive environment. That’s what gave me the confidence to apply for Oxford and achieve what I have.” Jen added: “I’m really excited to start uni shopping as soon as possible!”
- Nicole Lander has used her artistic talents to magnificent effect during lockdown. She created hundreds of hand-drawn pictures of key workers, raising thousands of pounds for NHS charities. Nicole has also sold some artwork to raise funds for university necessities, with several pieces going to a buyer in New York, USA. She said: “I’ve got through lockdown by keeping busy and doing what I love.” Nicole’s A* in Art, A in Product Design and B in Law will take her to study Product Design at Leicester’s De Montfort University. Said Nicole: “My time at Tupton Hall has been amazing. I’ve had great support from my teachers who have dedicated so much time to help me achieve.”
- Adam Metcalfe has kick-started his career, having already embarked on an apprenticeship in legal administration with a local solicitors’ firm. Adam, who joined Tupton Hall Sixth Form after studying GCSEs at Springwell Community College, said he wasn’t sure if university was right for him. He applied for his current role via the Government’s apprenticeships website in June and after impressing in interviews and work trials via Zoom, he started the job on 1 July. “In some ways lockdown has been the making of me,” beamed Adam after collecting his C in English Language and D in Law. “I’m so happy and I absolutely love the work I’m doing.” He added: “I will really miss Tupton Hall. My time here has been full of experiences, people and memories I will never forget.”

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Other high performing individuals:

- Samuel Furness: A A B B in Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics.
- Alice Robinson: A* A* A in Geography, Psychology and Sociology.
- Charlie Twell: A* A* A in Maths, Further Maths and English Language.
- Bertie Williamson: A* A* A in Maths, Chemistry and Biology.
- Olivia Laughton: A A A in English Literature, Psychology and Biology.

A selection of student destinations:

- Georgia Asher will study Psychology at The University of Sheffield.
- Charlie Twell will study Maths at the University of Nottingham.
- Marshall Nixon will study Aerospace Engineering at the University of Sheffield.
- Roman Kuler will study Electronic and Computer Engineering at the University of York.
- Anabelle Jolly will study Fashion Promotion at Manchester Metropolitan University.
- Sam Botham will study Agriculture and Mechanisation at Harper Adams University.
- Sophie Lanczak will study Environmental Science at Liverpool Hope University.
- Abbey Hicks will study a LLB (Hons) Law degree at the University of Derby.

