



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

After another difficult year of pandemic restrictions, uncertainty and social distancing, the class of 2021 eagerly awaited their GCSE results at Tupton Hall School. Students have had to adapt to remote learning, intermittent lockdown measures and the stresses of a global pandemic during two years of their GCSE studies. Overall, 61.3% of the cohort achieved 5 or more GCSE grade 9 to 4s, including English and Maths, and 37.4% achieved 5 or more GCSE grade 9 to 5s.

Headteacher Mr Andrew Knowles commented: “I am delighted for our students who have worked so hard to achieve their grades against the backdrop of months of uncertainty and anxiety. 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 teacher assessed grades used instead of the typical summer examinations, reflected students’ abilities, attainment and progress in a range of assessments. 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 examination board sampling.

Mr Knowles added: “I am very satisfied that our students are receiving the grades that they have duly earned and I thank the staff for their hard work, professionalism and diligence throughout this process. After an unprecedented two years of study both at home and at school, we now hope that all of our students can progress on to their chosen destination; either into sixth form, college, training providers or apprenticeships.”

“Together with our Year 12 and 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. Students and staff have shown great resilience and strength during the Covid-19 crisis which will be needed for the foreseeable future. We wish our young people the very best, and once again congratulate them on their achievements.”

- Frances Archibald was the highest ranked student in the year group, achieving an astonishing **10 grade 9s**. Frances has put her success down to a “lot of focus and hard work”, and plans on studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Philosophy at A Level. Collecting her results, she beamed: “I’m really happy! I worked really hard for these results and I’m so excited for the next chapter!”
- Ava Bateman was amazed with her results, having achieved **2 grade 9s, six grade 8s and 1 grade 7**. She said: “I’m so happy and excited, and I’m so thankful for all of the staff who have been here to support me.” Ava has made fantastic progress from her Year 7 Starting point and will be studying music performance and song writing at Confetti Institute of Create Technologies in September. Music has always been a talent of Ava’s and she



expressed her excitement for her future music career, stating: "I'm just so excited to be able to do something I enjoy!"

- Tabitha Bruty was extremely happy with her results, having achieved **5 grade 9s and 4 grade 8s**. Tabitha said: "I'm overwhelmed at the minute, I can't believe it! I'm surprised and relieved." Tabitha will be returning to Tupton Hall Sixth form in September to study, with long term aspirations of working in forensic pathology. She praised the staff at Tupton Hall School, and cited their support and dedication as a contribution towards her incredible achievements, adding: "Now I know I've got my GCSEs, I'm excited to come back in September and carry on working towards my goals."
- Joshua Cooper achieved a brilliant **4 grade 8s and 5 grade 7s**, with views of heading to Chesterfield College to study Applied Science. Joshua said: "I'm happy with my results, and especially with everything that's been going on I feel like I have been supported by staff as much as possible during the pandemic. They have been great at keeping in contact and answering any queries. The school also has fantastic science and PE facilities, which has helped my success in those subjects."
- Another of the top achievers, Aimee Cashmore, achieved an amazing **5 grade 9s and 4 grade 8s**. Aimee said: "I didn't know what to expect, I'm so relieved, so overwhelmed, having missed six months of teaching this year it's been so unnerving, but I'm so happy with my results!" Aimee will be returning to Tupton Hall Sixth Form in September, and will be studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths. When asked about her future goals, Aimee said: "I want to go to medical school and work towards doing something in that field, attending Sixth Form will help me work towards that."
- Sadie Boyle did fantastically, achieving **9 grade 7s and above**, particularly succeeding at Maths and History. Sadie said: "I feel so good about my results, relieved, too. I'm going to be joining Tupton Hall Sixth Form in September and will be studying Maths, Biology and Chemistry. In the long term I'd like to become a doctor or surgeon, these results are the first steps towards that."

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

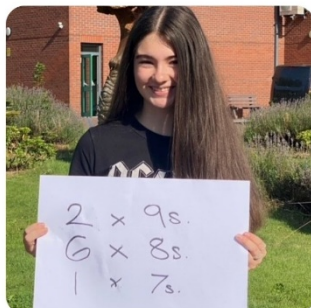
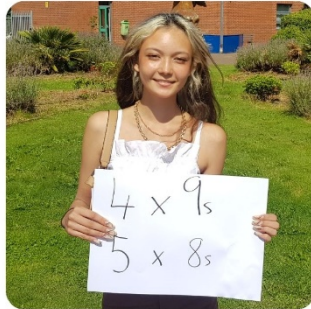
### Other high performing individuals:

- Evie Tallboys-Cotton: 6 grades 8 and above.
- Alfie Cordon: 9 grade 6s and above.
- Jake Hartshorn: 8 grade 7s and above.
- Evie Pullinger: 9 grade 8s and above.
- Rhianna Wing: 8 grade 8s and above and a Level 2 Distinction\*.
- Alexandra Orwin: 9 grade 8s and above.
- Hannah Shaw: 9 grade 8s and above.
- Ella Parkin: 9 grade 6s and above.



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

- Ciara Twigg: 3 grade 8s, 3 grade 7s, 2 grade 6s, 1 Level 2 Distinction\*.
- Emily Rogers: 2 grade 8s, 2 grade 7s, 1 grade 6 and 4 grade 5s.
- Billie Jo Neale: 3 grade 7s, 4 grade 5s, 1 Level 2 Distinction and 1 Level 2 Merit.





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

After another academic year of adversity, the class of 2021 has returned to Tupton Hall School to receive their A Level results. Amid intermittent lockdowns, social distancing and uncertainty, students have collected their results and stepped into the next chapters of their lives. Overall, the percentage of A\* to A students was 28.5%, with over half of our grades (53.9%) being A\* to B.

As examinations were unable to take place this year, teacher assessed grades (TAGs), have determined students' results. TAGs use a range of evidence completed as part of each course to demonstrate a student's performance on subject content. Nonetheless, students eagerly awaited their results.

Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Charlotte Burton, said: "These students had only just started their Year 12 studies with us when they experienced the upheaval of the pandemic. The exams might not have taken place, but the assessments that replaced them were just as demanding and rigorous. The students have worked incredibly hard for these grades, especially after crucial Year 13 classroom time was replaced with remote learning and virtual lessons."

"One of the clearest indicators of the strength and integrity of the cohort is their sense of community and their desire to make a positive contribution to the wider world. Even with time away from school, the Sixth Form raised nearly £2000 for a range of different charities; they made their own hampers at Christmas time and delivered hundreds of advent calendars and gift bags to a local food bank."

"Being a teenager through these unprecedented times has been fraught with challenges, but it is vital to highlight just how amazing and adaptable the students have been. Their support of each other and their daily engagement with school has been fantastic. Each student has overcome their individual challenges and they should be incredibly proud of themselves. Whether the students choose university, an apprenticeship, employment, or a gap year, we know that they will continue to make positive changes in the world."

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

Many Tupton Hall students are now heading to universities across the country to study subjects as wide ranging as meteorology, primary school teaching, oceanography, adventure film making, medicine, sociology and law and criminology. Others are beginning their careers by embarking on apprenticeships in fields such as business management, the post office and policing.

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.”

- Reece Hewitt has studied for 4 A Levels, securing A\*s in Maths and Further Maths and A's in Chemistry and Physics. In September, Reece plans on studying Maths at the University of Durham. He said: “The teachers were always accessible throughout the pandemic, which was reassuring. No matter how big or small your concern or question, they would always reply as fast as possible. Whilst the academic side of the Sixth Form was brilliant, the friendly people at Tupton Hall made the experience for me.”
- Lucy Astell has been awarded an amazing 3 A\*s. She achieved an A\* Geography, A\* in Law and another A\* in Psychology, and will head to University of Derby to study MEdu (in curriculum enhancement) with Qualified Teacher Status. She said: “The main thing about Tupton Hall Sixth Form for me is the sense of community. Everybody works together to support each other. The teachers go above and beyond to help students, and it's good to know there's always someone there to help if or when you need it.”
- Olivia Buckley has achieved an A\* in Biology, an A\* in Psychology and an A in Chemistry. In September, Olivia will be studying Biomedical Science at the University of Sheffield. She said: “All the staff at Tupton Hall School have been so supportive and kept in touch. All the resources have been fantastic throughout the pandemic, and the Sixth Form has supported everybody's mental health and wellbeing. There is such a friendly community at Tupton Hall School.”
- Chloe Butler has been awarded with 3 impressive results; A grades in Spanish and Maths and an A\* in Economics. Chloe's hard work and success will take her to the University of Sheffield where she will study Economics and Modern Languages & Cultures. She said “I have enjoyed my time at Tupton Hall Sixth form. I feel like all of the staff can always make time for you to help you overcome any issues you might be having. They are great at answering questions and supporting students. It's a really welcoming environment to have learned in and a great community to be a part of.”
- George Weaver has achieved an incredible 3 A\*s in Biology, Chemistry and Law. His successes will see him studying 'Gateway to Medicine' at the University of Leeds. George said: “With the pandemic, a lot had to change. I think the Sixth Form handled everything really well, and the shift to online learning was made as easy as possible. We all had to adapt and I feel like the teachers did this really well and supported every student. I enjoyed my time at Tupton Hall Sixth form, the students, teaching staff, and facilities are all very welcoming.”

#### Other high performing individuals:

- Eden Booth: A\*, A\*, A in Psychology, Law and History.
- Alisha Hurrell: A\*, A, A in Biology, Chemistry and Maths.



- Isabelle Payne: A\*, A\*, A, A\* in Biology, English Literature, Psychology & the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).
- Jack Redman: A\*, A\*, A, A in Maths, Further Maths, Physics and French.

## A selection of student destinations: (8)

- Daisy Walton will study Veterinary Medicine at the University of Liverpool.
- Alice Smart will study Interior Architecture and Design at the University of Lincoln.
- Mollie Stanley will study Midwifery at the University of Sheffield.
- Camilla Sushill will study Paediatric Nursing at the University of Nottingham.
- Lydia Randle will study Music Theatre at Expressions Academy of Performing Arts.
- Jamie Cornish will study architecture at the University of Strathclyde.

