



# SUCCESS AT BGS





**BURY**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

**GCSE**

# A TALENTED YEAR GROUP ACHIEVING HIGH STANDARDS THROUGHOUT THEIR GCSE COURSES

**While the many challenges of awarding exam grades this year have been well documented in national forums, the achievements of our Y11 pupils were not in doubt to us, regardless of whichever grading system was ultimately implemented: their aptitudes and talents have been clear to their teachers throughout their time at BGS. This is a generation of young people with great promise.**

- One in six GCSE results was a grade 9
- Over a third of grades are 8/9, another stellar achievement, also up on last year
- 61% of pupils obtained more grades at 9-7 than at any other level
- We are immensely proud that 95% of GCSE results are at grades 9-5, once again representing an increase on last year
- 99.5% pass rate (grade 9-4) is another area in which results show an improvement on 2019.
- We would all like to offer our brilliant Year 11 pupils our warmest congratulations on the high standards they reached in their studies.



## Quotes from the Head:

**Mrs Jo Anderson, Principal and Headmistress, said,**

'Enormous congratulations to our fabulous Year 11s on their incredible achievements during their GCSE years. Everything we know about these pupils indicates a generation with a bright future ahead: they excelled during their GCSE courses and have shown enormous strength of character in the last few months. The average GCSE grade for a BGS pupil has, for a number of years now, been an A grade or equivalent and this year group are no exception: we are immensely proud of them. High praise must also go the group of fifty pupils whose Higher Project Qualifications have been marked externally and returned to us today: an astonishing nine in ten of them were awarded A\*-B grades and well over half given outstanding A\*/A grades. You don't achieve such grades in the HPQ without being able to think for yourself and work independently – qualities which we strongly encourage at BGS. Every pupil who has succeeded in this rigorous qualification should be extremely proud of themselves – including all those who sat this a year early in year 10.'



**Mr Devin Cassidy, Vice Principal and Headmaster said:**

'I warmly congratulate all of our Year 11 pupils on their achievements and very much look forward to welcoming them into the Sixth Form. Mindful of our commitment to our pupils and the anxiety that the past 5 months might have caused for them, all pupils have gone into GCSE results day knowing that they had a place in our Sixth Form. We have always had confidence in their ability and potential and did not need to wait for GCSE results to have this confirmed. I know pupils are now looking forward with excitement to their Sixth Form careers and the many academic and extracurricular opportunities that await them. As Headmaster of the Boys' School I have been hugely impressed with the way in which the boys were preparing for their GCSEs before the pandemic caused their exams to be cancelled and how they continued to work hard and complete preparation work for entry into the Sixth Form; indeed, it said much about their resilience and character. Congratulations Year 11!'



# THE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESSES OF AN ERA

**Every generation of pupils deserves the opportunity to celebrate GCSE results day – and our tremendous Year 11s of 2020 are no exception.**

Overall, in line with previous generations, well over a third of grades are 8/9s (the old A\*), more than six in ten grades are 7-9 (previously, A\*-A) and the vast majority of grades are 6-9 (formerly A\*-B). This pattern is very much in line with previous generations as the average GCSE grade for a BGS pupil has been an A grade or equivalent for a number of years now.

**Superb GCSE grades in line with previous generations**

When the School introduced a new curriculum in 2018, the aim was to strengthen academic standards still further. The HPQ gave Senior School pupils the opportunity to conduct independent research and hone skills which will enable them to approach A levels and higher education with confidence.

**Outstanding results in the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) - coursework marked, moderated and grades published: nine in ten results are A\*-B**

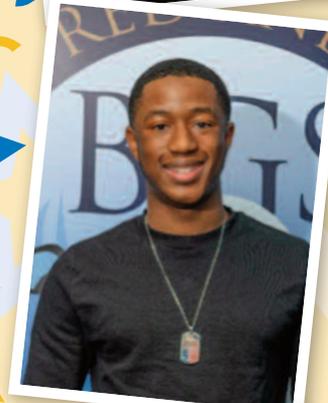
There were some fascinating projects on a whole variety of themes - from the causes of the Russian revolution to the role of cultural appropriation in 21st century society; the reasons behind the increase in the type 2 diabetes, to strategies for making homes more eco-friendly, and many more.

We are delighted to announce that well over half of projects gained an A/A\* and a fabulous nine in ten projects overall were awarded A\*-B grades.

Many congratulations to all our HPQ pupils on their magnificent grades - the result of hard work, self-motivation, perseverance and independence of thought: this really bodes very well indeed for their futures.

**My child has been here since Cygnets, they've all paddled together and under the guidance of BGS, have grown into graceful swans in search of the stars.**

**BGS Parent**



# EXCELLENT GRADES IN AN UNUSUAL YEAR

A LEVEL

**Nearly 1 in 2 grades at the exceptionally demanding A-A\* level.**

**100% pass rate once again and outstanding university successes.**

**More than 90% of students are going to their 1st or 2nd choice university.**

**Oxbridge successes in Maths, Computer Science and Humanities.**

**A number of medics and dentists have places on prestigious courses.**

**The vast majority of BGS students will be starting on the university course of their choice next month – with a high percentage of students set to begin courses at Russell group universities.**

## **An outstanding group of students**

Bury Grammar School's A Level Class of 2020 – students who two years ago obtained the School's strongest GCSE results in a generation - excelled in Sixth Form and celebrated having achieved the highest standards at A Level. We are thrilled that many of our sixth formers are now taking up places on prestigious university courses.

## **Excellent grades in an unusual year**

More than half of Bury Grammar Upper Sixth students had As and A\*s on their results slips and the majority of all grades were at the 'gold standard' of A\* to B. Once again there is a 100% pass rate. In what has become the School's hall mark, students have made fabulous progress during their journey through BGS Sixth Form, exceeding even their own high expectations, and face the future with confidence.

## **Quotes from the Head:**

**Mrs Jo Anderson, Principal, said**

'Many congratulations to the stunning class of 2020 – we could not be more proud of your academic achievements over the last two years nor of the people you have become. An outstanding year group, you thoroughly deserve outstanding A Level grades. There is much to celebrate as you come to the end of your unique and wonderful journey through school. We know you are well prepared to go out and wow the world and we fully expect to hear of many future successes. All of us at BGS have loved working with you and we wish you all the very best – you are a generation we will never forget.'

The Sixth Form team have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the UCAS application process, apprenticeships and other Higher Education routes. Each of our students receives individual support, tailored to their future aspirations. As is the case every year, we are sad to see our Year 13 students depart, but we know they remain a part of our Bury Grammar School community and we hope they will keep us informed of their future achievements'

**Mr Dave Newbury - Deputy Head of Sixth Form**

**Mr Devin Cassidy, Vice Principal, commented**

'I warmly congratulate all of our Year 13 students on their achievements and also for the way in which they have dealt with the last 5 months which cannot have been easy. I know that our students really wanted to sit their exams to show what they are capable of but sadly this was not possible. I know that they appreciate that their learning whilst at school will remain with them for life and will equip them to deal confidently with the challenges that lie ahead, at university and beyond. I wish them the very best for the future and know that they will keep in touch as Bury Grammar School will always be their school.'

# 100%

## PASS RATE ONCE AGAIN AND EXCEPTIONAL UNIVERSITY SUCCESSES

# A LEVEL

They acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our students and are all the more impressive when we consider their commitment to the wider Bury Grammar School community. These students have embraced a variety of enrichment opportunities within the Sixth Form and many of them have regularly demonstrated high levels of leadership qualities, through their involvement within our Sixth Form Leadership Programme. Alongside phenomenal academic success, our Sixth Form students are talented musicians, gifted actors, elite sportsmen and women and mature leaders. We are today, as always, an extremely proud school as our students embark upon their next steps as well- rounded, determined and successful young adults. We wish them all the very best.  
Mrs Holly Hammond- Head of Sixth Form

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 SUCCESSES



Olivia Moriarty, Head Girl, is heading to Newcastle to study Journalism.  
**Olivia said:** "BGS is amazing, I feel like I have been here forever, and am at a bit of a loss but also really excited about the future now!"



Fadil Ali is going to UCLAN to study Architecture.  
**Fadil said:** "I feel like I have been at Bury Grammar all my life, going to Uni will be a massive change but I am thankful to everyone at BGS".

Will Mau, who achieved four A\*s in his A Levels, will go on from BGS to study Mathematics at Warwick University.



University awaits for Kate Ward who is going to study Anthropology at The University of St Andrews!  
**Kate who is a true all rounder & taught herself Korean said:** "I'm looking forward to playing golf at St Andrews!"

University awaits for Alex Donaghy who is going to York, to study Archaeology.  
**Alex said:** "I've had a great time at Bury Grammar, I feel like I've been here a really long time! I completed my DofE Gold along the way. You only realise how much you miss it when it's gone (lockdown)".



University awaits for Ethan Daniel who is going to Manchester University to read History.  
**Ethan said:** "The opportunities at BGS have been fabulous, World Challenge to Morocco was one of the highlights of my time at Bury Grammar!"



University awaits for Olivia Groves who is going to study Musical Theatre Performance at The Hammond, University of Chester!  
**Olivia sends** "...a big thank you to all the staff at BGS".



University awaits for Bethany Bangbala who is heading to Durham University to read Philosophy and Theology.  
**Bethany said:** "BGS is such a nice school, really family orientated, it has been great!"



Dylan Buckley is heading to Durham University to study Economics.  
**Dylan said:** "Thanks to the teachers at BGS, I'm very excited to be doing Economics at Durham!"

Emily Lancaster is heading to Lancaster University to study English!  
**Emily said:** "These have been the best 7 years I could ever have asked for. I particularly enjoyed Book Club every Friday, it was fabulous and we even continued during lockdown!"

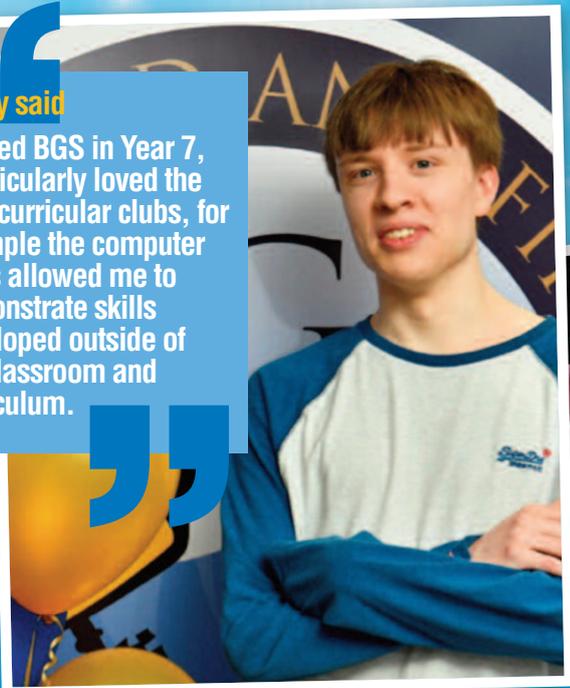


# Oxbridge SUCCESS

University awaits for Henry Batchelor who is going to Cambridge, to study Computer Science.

## Henry said

I joined BGS in Year 7, I particularly loved the extracurricular clubs, for example the computer clubs allowed me to demonstrate skills developed outside of the classroom and curriculum.



Two of our students have successfully secured places on extremely competitive courses at highly-sought after Oxbridge colleges.

University awaits for Conor McCay who is going to Oxford, to study Maths.

## Conor said

BGS has been a wonderful environment to learn in, the people involved in the school, the pupils and the staff have been brilliant, it's been great.



## Conor's parents said

We are stunned and unbelievably proud of him, he has worked so hard and truly deserves it.



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE



UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

## THE FUTURE – A THREE YEAR GCSE COURSE AND ADDITIONAL TEACHING TIME AT A LEVEL

At Bury Grammar School, we offer our future generations of GCSE pupils, three, rather than two years to prepare for these truly demanding qualifications and should, we would anticipate, be therefore aiming to do even better.

In addition, we allocate extra teaching time to each A Level subject (more than any other school or college we know of in the area) which means that future A Level generations really should be setting their sights high. We would certainly encourage them to do so!



AFTER REACHING THE  
MILESTONE OF OUR 450TH YEAR,  
WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK  
AHEAD AS A SCHOOL AND PLAN  
STRATEGICALLY TO DO THE VERY  
BEST FOR OUR PUPILS.

## THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT



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SCHOOLS

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