

## Exam Results

### Results at Prior Park

Prior Park is unapologetically *not* just an exam factory – our students leave with much more than just GCSEs and A-Levels.

As such, we are a selective school, but in a broader sense – our intake is made up not only from students who show great potential in the traditional academic subjects, but also from future artists, sportspeople, actors, musicians, and leaders.

That's a very different approach to many independent schools who select their intakes *solely* on academic ability, unsurprisingly achieve lots of 9's and A\*s, and then often wheel out these percentages year after year as their sole criterion of success.

At Prior, those raw percentages are of course still very good, always maintaining a comfortable margin on other schools in the UK – broad as they are, our intake are a talented bunch! Where we really excel, though, is in 'Value-Added'.

### What is Value-Added?

Not all students are destined for a 9 or an A\* in every subject. Students are individuals – they all have different strengths, weaknesses, and talents. 'Value-Added' uses a special ability test at the start of students' time at Prior to work out how well they do **compared to similar ability students in other schools**.

With Value-Added, schools can't hide lacklustre teaching behind a really able intake, and Value-Added is simple to understand:

- **0.0** means students did the same as others of the same ability in other schools.
- **+0.25** means students did a quarter-of-a-grade better than others of similar ability in other schools.
- **-0.10** means students did a tenth-of-a-grade worse than their similar-ability colleagues in other schools.

### This Year's Results

2023 saw very positive results at both GCSE and A-Level for students at Prior, with particularly impressive Value-Added.

#### **GCSE**

At GCSE, around 1 in every 9 grades were the coveted "9" compared to around 1 in 21 nationally, and our 9-4 percentage remained strong at over 94%, compared to 68% in other schools in England.

**Our Value-Added at GCSE was an impressive +0.46 meaning students at Prior did almost an entire half-grade better than similar students in other schools**, across a sample of some 15,000 institutions - both independent, state and international.

### ***A-Level***

A-Level saw equally excellent results this year, with 12.3% of grades awarded at the top “A\*” level - over three times the average for other schools – and over 86% of all grades awarded between A\* and C.

Value-Added, while numbers are typically smaller at A-Level, was very healthy too at **+0.07** compared to all schools, and +0.05 compared only to other independent schools. This means, whatever the comparison, **students at Prior did significantly better at A-Level than similar colleagues at other schools, both state and independent.**

A huge ‘congratulations’ to all our U5 and U6 students on their results this year!

Mr Gamble  
Deputy Head, Academic

For more information on Exam Results, please do feel free to get in touch with our Academic Team via the School Office.