



## **Plymstock School students shine as GCSE results reach new heights**

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Students at Plymstock School are celebrating an exceptional set of GCSE results today, with the school recording its strongest overall results.

There has been a significant uplift in the number of students achieving the very highest grades, including a substantial increase in the number of Grade 9s awarded and in the proportion of students achieving Grade 7 and above.

The success is particularly pleasing in English and Mathematics, with strong outcomes in both subjects ensuring that students leave Plymstock School with the qualifications they need to access a wide range of post-16 pathways, whether continuing into Sixth Form, further education, apprenticeships or employment.

The results are the culmination of a tremendous amount of hard work from students and staff throughout their time at the school and this year in particular. The year group has developed a strong culture of determination and ambition, with students making the most of additional opportunities to prepare for their examinations, including Super Saturdays, Period 6 revision sessions and a wide range of additional subject support.

Among the many individual successes is Yassin Omara, who achieved an outstanding Grade 9 in all three Science subjects.

Merryn Langford has also achieved exceptional results, including securing a Grade 9 in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics – an impressive and relatively rare achievement.

However, for Plymstock School, success is not just evidenced by achievement of the highest grades.

The school is proud to be an inclusive community to which students arrive with very different starting points and experiences. Some students have joined Plymstock School later in their school career, while others have arrived from different countries and backgrounds, sometimes having experienced significant turbulence in their lives or having little or no English when they first joined the school.

One such student is Muhammad Hamdard, who joined Plymstock without speaking English. Today, he leaves the school having achieved an impressive Grade 4 in English Literature, alongside his other GCSE achievements, opening up further opportunities for his education. Muhammad's journey is just as worthy of celebration as the very highest grades.

Stuart Koehler-Lewis (Headteacher) said

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*"Not every student has the same start in life, and that is something we understand and value at Plymstock School. Some of our students have overcome significant barriers during their education, and seeing them achieve qualifications that unlock their next steps is a real privilege and something that we take great inspiration from."*

*"We have enjoyed some outstanding academic success this year, and the increase in Grade 9s and Grade 7+ outcomes is something we should absolutely celebrate. But our definition of success is broader than that. We are proud when a student achieves the very highest grades, and we are equally proud when a student who has faced significant barriers reaches a point where new opportunities become possible. Very many of the grades achieved today open doors to many opportunities both now and in the future."*

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The school is also proud of the wider culture that has developed within the year group – one in which students have supported one another, worked hard and increasingly taken responsibility for their own success.

A record number of students are now looking to continue into Plymstock School Sixth Form, something we see as a reflection of both the strength of our Sixth Form offer and the relationships built with students throughout their time with us.

We are also keen to recognise that these results are a collective achievement across the wider Westcountry Schools Trust.

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*"We are immensely proud to be part of Westcountry Schools Trust. The success of our students is shared with colleagues across the Trust who work collaboratively, support one another and constantly look for ways to improve the opportunities we provide for young people. Our students benefit from being part of that wider network of schools, and we are very grateful for the expertise and collaboration of colleagues across the Trust."*

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As students celebrate today, the message from Plymstock School is clear: **GCSE results are not simply about numbers or grades, but about the opportunities those results create and the journeys that students have taken to reach them.**

For some, the next step will be ambitious academic study. For others, it will be vocational education, an apprenticeship or a different pathway. What unites them is that they leave Plymstock School with more doors open than when they arrived – and with a school community immensely proud of what they have achieved.

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