

16 August 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians

Last Summer we had a small cohort of just 24 Upper Sixth pupils who studied some subjects here and others at St Bede's School. This year we had 58 Upper Sixth pupils studying entirely in-house and they (as well as staff and Governors) have been anxiously awaiting their A level results.

The news is good ! Just under 40% of Upper Sixth exam results were grades **A*, A and B.**

39 of the 58 Upper Sixth applied to university and 29 have been accepted by their chosen university. The others are currently in "Clearing" – the system which allows them to get themselves onto a suitable course where there is a vacancy – several have already negotiated university places and I confidently expect the rest to find a suitable university course early next week.

Those that did not apply to university have a variety of interesting plans including *Gap Year working in Ghana with people with HIV*, *Sailing instructor in Greece* and *Gap Year in Australia working with family member in interior design.*

This was our first real Upper Sixth with a significant number of pupils, and it was the first time that many departments had taught an Upper Sixth class. I would like to congratulate both the pupils on gaining such excellent results and the teachers and all others who work to support pupils in so many ways on the success of this Summer.

The Lower Sixth AS level results were very encouraging, though I have had less chance to analyse them in detail.

The Lower Sixth which starts in a couple of weeks will have 54 boarders, compared to 26 in the Upper Sixth. This growth in Sixth Form boarder numbers is a real tribute to the quality of our teaching and pastoral care and shows that Sixth Form is really well launched and will certainly grow in success and in size over the next few years.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the Summer

With my best wishes

Paul D Spencer Ellis

Headmaster