

Hailing the high achievers

FROM a student who overcame crippling anxiety to a teenager heading to Oxford University, school pupils across Basildon have once again bagged impressive A-Level results.

At Mayflower High School, in Billericay, results saw a further rise in top grades, with A* to B passes up three per cent on last year and a leap in average point scores.

Among the high achievers was 18-year-old Iona McMorris, who just two years ago saw her GCSEs derailed by severe anxiety.

Despite that setback, she went on to earn B grades in biology, chemistry and maths at A-Level, alongside resitting GCSEs.

She now plans to take a year out to travel and volunteer in India and south-east Asia before applying to university to pursue a career in medicine.

Other standouts included Eloise Dodd, with three A*s, and Aine Booroff, with an A* in psychology and As in chemistry and history.

Assistant headteacher Dr Stuart Fawell praised the cohort's "remarkable diligence, respect and resilience".

The Billericay School recorded an impressive 30 per cent of all A-level qualifications at A-A* and a 99 per cent pass rate, with 58 per cent of students achieving

at least one top grade.

Among them was Ethan McGeorge, who achieved A*A*AA and secured a place at St John's College, Oxford, to read Classics.

Alongside his academic achievements, Ethan was a senior prefect and led the school's key stage 3 history and politics club.

Headteacher Patrick Berry said: "Ethan represents everything we value at The Billericay School – academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to enriching the lives of others."

At Bromfords School, in Wickford, 31 per cent of A-Level grades were A*B and 69 per cent were A*C, with a 100 per cent pass rate in all subjects.

Vocational results were equally strong, with 70 per cent of grades at Distinction* or Distinction.

Headteacher Jochen Tree said the results "open doors to bright futures" as students move on to universities, apprenticeships and careers.

Beauchamps High School, in Wickford, also celebrated strong results, with headteacher Mat Harper praising students' "hard work, commitment and effort over the past two years".

He wished them the very best in their next steps, whether heading to university, starting apprenticeships or beginning careers.



■ Great results – Students celebrate at Beauchamps High School



■ Pride – Iona McMorris



■ Oxford-bound – Ethan McGeorge at The Billericay School

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RAF ambitions

FORMER Chase High School head boy Harry Short is putting all of his sixth form success to use in the military.

The 18-year-old, from Southend, collected a Distinction* and Distinction in BTEC sport and a B grade in A-level geography.

With the final hurdles of a fitness test and interview, the Southend RAF Air Cadet and first ever mayor's cadet is hoping to join the RAF in the new year.

Harry, who has been part of the sixth form's unique Chelsea FC Football Academy as part of his studies, said: "I have always wanted to go into the military. I am really proud of my role with the mayor."



Among UK's best

A SOUTHEND High School for Girls pupil was thrilled to discover he achieved one of the best grades in the country for art.

Gabriel Borbe couldn't believe it when he opened his results envelope yesterday morning to discover he had achieved four A*'s in his A-Levels.

However, the 18-year-old was even more shocked to find out he was one of the top achievers in the country in OCRs A Level Art.

The former sixth former will now be attending the University of Cambridge (King's College) to read architecture.

Sharing his advice to future year 13 pupils, he said: "My advice to sixth form students would be take your A-Levels one day at a time."

Headteacher Jason Carey said: "These achievements are a testament to the expertise of our staff, the unwavering support of parents and carers, and the vibrant learning culture we nurture at Southend High School for Girls."

"We are confident that our students will carry their talents, strong values, and intellectual curiosity into the next stage of their lives, making a positive impact wherever they go."



Extra lessons pay

AN ambitious student took on extra lessons to help him reach his top grades.

Freddie Flanagan, 18, from Billericay, scored an A* in business studies and B grades in computer science and economics at Mayflower High School.

Having completed work experience with JP Morgan, he is now preparing to start an apprenticeship with ambitions of a career in finance.

He said: "The school put on a lot of extra lessons to help me to better my grade. I was very happy to attend as I recognised I needed those extra lessons. The school putting them on motivated me to do even better, with my teachers' support."



A*s all the way

TOP performing student at Greensward Academy in Hockley, Harry Jones achieved a clean sweep of A* grades.

The determined 18-year-old secured the highest grade in maths, further maths and economics.

He said: "I knew my A-levels were probably the most important exams I was ever going to sit and this added real pressure."

"But, with the support of my teachers, family and friends, I was able to give it my absolute best shot and am obviously delighted with the outcome."

Harry takes up his place at The University of Warwick in September where he will be studying maths.

Principal at Greensward Academy, Katie Scarnell, said: "I am delighted and proud of our students who have worked hard and achieved such amazing results, with many going onto university, further study or apprenticeships."

"Good luck to all our fantastic students."



Up for challenge

ARRIVING in England in the middle of Year 11 has not stopped Jetmir Shira from achieving highly.

The 18-year-old, now living in Southend having moved from Albania, hit the ground running completing six GCSE courses with grades 5, 4 and 3.

Now, in his A-Levels, Jetmir has achieved a Distinction* and Distinction in applied science and a Merit in BTEC IT, with his sights set on university and a career as a dentist.

Emma Mulford, head of sixth form, said: "When Jetmir arrived in Southend from Albania halfway through Year 11, he faced a challenge that would test anyone's resolve - settling into a new country, a new school and preparing for GCSEs all at once."

"Undaunted, Jetmir threw himself into his studies, determined to make the most of the opportunity. His hard work paid off, earning him his GCSEs and paving the way for further success at Chase."

"Known for his positivity and strong work ethic, Jetmir now has his sights set firmly on university."



Led by a Lioness

A YOUNG footballer inspired by Lioness and fellow former Southend schoolgirl Michelle Agyemang achieved top results.

Jessica Parr played for Billericay Academy Football whilst studying for her A-Levels at Southend High School for Girls.

Agyemang, 19, who also went to Southend High School for Girls, is now studying business management at King's College London and her success in juggling her studies while training for England ahead of the women's Euros inspired Jessica to also succeed.

She said: "Michelle Agyemang inspired me because I saw how she could balance her football commitments and her studies."

"I cannot wait for my next chapter."

Jessica picked up two A*'s and two A's in her subjects at the grammar school yesterday morning.

She will also be attending King's College London to read sport and exercise medical science.



Just excellent

A SUCCESSFUL Oxbridge applicant is celebrating outstanding results for her sixth form.

Emma Poskitt is one of six students at Mossbourne Sixth Form in Stanford-le-Hope to achieve the highest possible grade in each of her subjects, picking up four A*s.

She has become the first student at the former Ortu Trust Sixth Form to successfully apply for an Oxbridge university in more than a decade.

A spokesman for Mossbourne Sixth Form Thurrock said: "This is a wonderful achievement in its own right but even more impressive considering how few students from Thurrock have reached Oxbridge in recent years."



'Over the moon' Oxford-bound

SCHOOL captain at Westcliff High School for Boys, Rafi Gamma, has accepted a place to study Law at the university of Cambridge having achieved a remarkable four A* grades in economics, history, German and politics.

He is one of 14 to achieve three or more A* grades at the sixth form.

Receiving his results, Rafi said: "I have a place at the university that I wanted most and I'm absolutely over the moon with the results."



ONE of four students at Southend High School for Boys who achieved a remarkable four A*s is heading to Oxford this year.

Callum Powrie, 18, from Leigh, secured all A*s across English literature, history, politics and economics.

Now the determined youngster is preparing to read history and politics at the prestigious University of Oxford from this September.

Reflecting on his success, Callum said: "Forti Nihil Difficile."

"To the determined nothing is impossible - our school motto."



Dream chance

ONE of Greensward Academy's highest performing A-Level students is set to train for her dream job.

Benita Okoroha has secured a place to study medicine at Plymouth University, a course with an exceptionally rigorous recruitment process.

She achieved an A* in biology and two A's in chemistry and maths.

She said: "The additional exams and interviews I had to complete were a lot as I knew I would also need good grades in my A-levels too."

"It's been a full on couple of years but I now get to train for the job I always wanted and I could not be happier."

