

## **Press Release - The Ashcombe School**

### **PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS - SUMMER 2009**

#### **GCSE RESULTS**

- 100% of pupils gained at least 1 A\*-G and 98% gained at least 5A\*-G. This is particularly pleasing because we are a comprehensive school taking the full range of ability with no selection or filtering.
- Outstanding individual results, with 36 pupils gaining 3 or more A\* grades: 9A\*: Hugh Baker; 8½A\*: Ruth Luckins; 8A\*: Sarah Bridgman, Sophia Lowes; 7A\*: Nicola Marsden; 6½A\*: Colette Parker; 6A\* Holly Ingram, Eve Powell, Elliott Taylor; 5½A\* William Isted, Jenny Lloyd; 5A\*: Andrew Higgins, Kieran Mackrell, Rebecca Ray, Faheem Sheikh; 4A\*: Helen Charman, Katie Martin, Rory McDonald, Rob Moorcroft, Laura Price, Louise Shaw, William Thorp, Andrew Valentine; 3A\* Katie Addison, Eleanor Astbury, Luke Bangs, Stephen Butler, Emily Caldwell, Jennifer Crunden, Clarissa Eagle, Alex Gowan-Webster, Kristian Hook, Gareth Moreton, Mustafizur Rahman, Lee Witkowski, Marcus Wood  
(½ grades come from GCSE short courses, which have same difficulty but half the topics). Overall, an exceptional 10% of grades were A\*.
- The percentage of pupils gaining **at least 5A\*-C** is **80%** this year, again up on last year's figure (75%)
- The percentage of pupils gaining **at least 5A\*-C with En & Maths** is **71%** this year, up on last year's figure (69%)
- This was the second year of the new system of examining Science, replacing the old Dual Science where pupils gained two GCSEs with the same grade at the end of Year 11. Under the new system, pupils take exams in Science in Year 10 and gain a grade, and then take Additional Science in Year 11 for which they gain a separate grade. All pupils take two GCSE Science exams, and 78% gain A\*-C grade in each of the Science exams. 40 pupils gained an A\* in Additional Science.
- 94% of pupils gained at least 1 A\*-C grade showing that the curriculum is sufficiently broad and flexible so that virtually all pupils can gain an A\*-C grade in at least one subject.

These are outstanding results which have been achieved by a complete cross-section of young people. The Ashcombe School is a local authority mixed comprehensive which offers places to all young people living within the area regardless of academic ability. Examination achievement is regarded as an important aspect of the education we provide but not necessarily the most important aspect and we do not manipulate entry to either courses or exams to improve the statistics.

We believe that a number of factors have contributed to all this success of which the hard work of the pupils themselves, the support of their parents and the skill and dedication of our teachers are the most significant. In addition however, for several years, we have used a system of target setting and monitoring at GCSE in which pupils are given clear indication very early in their course as to the results we expect. This is based on a subject by subject analysis of their previous performance. At the same time pupils are challenged to exceed these targeted expectations. Many pupils have risen to this challenge magnificently. Within this process, regular monitoring allowed us to give encouragement throughout and to address the issues of those who were in danger of underachieving before it became too late.

These excellent results demonstrate the effectiveness of high quality teaching coupled with strong management systems and team work. The Ashcombe School has achieved a consistently high standard of examination results for several years now, but it is not complacent and will seek to build on this achievement.