



AUTUMN 2017

SUCCESS FOR CLASS OF 2017

ACHIEVEMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL

As ever, there were lots of examples of outstanding individual achievement by our students this year.

Star student Katie Bal achieved a grade 9 in her GCSE Maths, along with a grade A* in Further Maths. To this she added a grade 8 and a grade 7 in her English exams (equivalent to an A* and an A), topped off with three A* grades in the separate sciences, a further A* in History, an A grade in Spanish, an A in Religious Education and a double Distinction* in Health and Social Care. A truly amazing set of results.



In a year which saw radical changes to the examination system at the end of Key Stage 4, our Year 11 students once again achieved some excellent results in their end of school examinations this summer.

Despite the government's decision to make GCSE examinations more challenging, our GCSE results held up in most subjects and there were, as usual, a number of exceptional individual performances from our students. All students took the new, harder, GCSE Maths course this year and 64% of them succeeded in achieving a Grade 4, the equivalent of a C grade in the old system.

In English the picture was even better, with 81% of students achieving a Grade 4 or higher in that subject at GCSE level.

Our science results were, once again, outstanding. 90% of the year group achieved at least one good pass in Science, with 85% of them achieving A*-C in double science.

Our large group of 'triple scientists' also did very well indeed, with 95% of them achieving C or above in all three sciences.

GCSE PE results topped the 80% mark again this year, as did GCSE Religious Studies. French and Spanish were not far behind, with a 79% and 75% pass rate in these subjects respectively.

The results for RS are particularly impressive as students studied this subject outside of the normal school day, in addition to their other timetabled subjects, showing real dedication and commitment.

5+ A*-C	74%
A*-C English	81%
A*-C Science	90%

These results were, as ever, achieved by the hard work and dedication of our students and staff coupled, importantly, with the support students received from home.

SIXTH FORM SUCCESS FOR JOHN SPENCE HASWELL MEDAL WINNER



We are always very interested to know how our former students do when they leave us and move on to the next phase of their education and beyond. We are particularly interested in keeping an eye on the progress of those students who leave us and transfer to our partner institution, Queen Alexandra Sixth Form College.

This year saw students at QA once again achieving some excellent results, with one former John Spence student being particularly successful. Sarah Wind, who left John Spence two years ago, gained A* in Chemistry, Further Maths and Accountancy, and an A in Physics — an outstanding set of results! Sarah now plans to study Maths at Newcastle University.

At John Spence we were delighted, but not surprised, to see that Sarah had done so well. An extremely talented student, Sarah sat GCSE Maths and GCSE Further Maths in Year 10 at John Spence and gained an A* and an A[^] (an A* with distinction) respectively in these two exams.

Not content with her success in Year 10, Sarah began an A Level course in Maths in her last year at John Spence and gained grade A's in all three of her A Level modules, securing a Grade A in her AS Level.

This phenomenal achievement was topped off with a further eight GCSE passes - five at A* and three at Grade A - in Sarah's other subjects. Sarah was the highest achieving student at John Spence in 2015. She was awarded the Haswell Medal for Academic Excellence in recognition of her achievements at the school.



MAKEEN MAKES HIS MARK

Makeen Baroudi's achievements in this summer's exams are worthy of special mention, and should serve as inspiration for all of our students and staff.

Makeen joined the school two years ago when he entered Year 10 just after the beginning of the school year. He came to us with a story to tell.

Makeen and his family came from Syria and had been forced to leave the country because of the civil war. The family lost everything as a result of the conflict - home, employment, friends and all of their possessions - and arrived in North Shields in 2015. Makeen joined us at John Spence and had no more than half a dozen words of English. What he did have, however, was an absolute determination to succeed in his new home.

Over his two years with us, Makeen worked extremely hard at mastering the language and, as his grasp of English developed, put more and more effort into his studies. A gifted mathematician with a keen interest in science, he was determined to achieve the exam grades necessary to progress to A levels in the sciences and then go on to University to study Medicine so that he could become a doctor. The excellent results which Makeen achieved were achieved through hard work and determination in the face of tremendous hardship.

MAKEEN'S STORY IN HIS OWN WORDS:

Makeen's GCSE Grades: 6,9,A*,A*,A*,A*,A,B,B

'2 years ago I left Syria with only one hope, to stay alive somewhere. I put everything aside and stepped into an overloaded plastic boat in order to achieve that hope, leaving family members behind. The spirit of hard work always accompanied me even at the very end of the journey in the Mediterranean when the boat sank. I arrived in England and started Year 10 at John Spence later than everyone else. With no ability to speak English at all, I'd read books and newspapers every day and translate tens of words a day just to learn as much and as fast as possible and to catch up with everyone else. Even when I started speaking English I never stopped working hard. And on results day finally everything paid off and I got the grades I need to do Maths, Chemistry and Biology at Sixth Form and on the way to study Medicine in the future.

Thanks to John Spence for helping me through this and making GCSEs easier due to the enormous amount of help that was provided to everyone of the year group.'