



■ **Srutti Suresan, Catherine Sinden, Ramisa Yazdani Biouki, Sarah Mohammed** from Francis Holland School were in high spirits after getting their A-level results

# A-level results

9-page special

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Przemyslaw, with his 4 A\*, 4A and 4B grades, is now studying Maths, Physics and D&T at A level, aiming for Engineering

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## EDUCATION | A-level Results



■ Delighted students from Paddington Academy clutch their A-level results

# Student who battled brain tumour earns an excellent set of results

Despite major surgery and months  
in hospital he shines in his exams

by **Samantha Lewis**  
[samantha.lewis@archant.co.uk](mailto:samantha.lewis@archant.co.uk)

courageous schoolboy who fought back from a brain tumour has scored a top set of A-level results and is now getting ready for university.

Mohamed Musa was diagnosed with the illness when he was in Year 10 at Paddington Academy, in Marylands Road, after suffering from severe headaches.

He spent months in hospital after undergoing a major operation – but despite missing a lot of school, he was determined nothing was going to get in the way of his education.

With the help of his teachers he sat his A-levels exams this summer and has achieved an impressive two As and a B in maths, economics and Arabic.

**Role model**  
Mohamed, who is taking up a place at Queen Mary University to study economics, was visiting family in Sudan last week

### Results table

School:	A*-A 2014,	A*-C 2014,
Grey Coat Hospital:	33	88
Paddington Academy:	20	70
Pimlico Academy:	26	85
Quintin Kynaston:	19	64
St Augustine's High:	16	72
St Marylebone:	36	93
Westminster City School:	X	76
Francis Holland:	55	96
DLD College:	34	80
Westminster Academy (International Baccalaureate)	41	89





# Results leap as national pass rate slips a little

Youngsters across the borough have eclipsed the national average for A-level results despite the overall pass rate falling across the country for the first time in more than 30 years.

Provisional figures provided by Westminster Council show 81 per cent of students achieved A\* to C grades, compared with 77pc nationally.

The number of teenagers earning A\* to E grades was also slightly higher than the national average coming in at 99pc, with 27pc of all entries bagging one or more A\* and A grades.

St Marylebone Sixth Form again topped the league table both for the number of A\*-C grades (93pc) and the number of A\* and A grades (36pc).

While at the other end of the scale was Quintin Kynaston, in St John's Wood, which recorded a A\*-C pass rate of 64pc – but it was celebrating its best-ever set of results after seeing the score leap by 5pc compared with 2013's results.

A handful of other schools also bucked the national trend and saw marked improvements in the number of pupils achieving the best grades.

Students at St Augustine's High, in Maida Vale, outperformed last year's year group with 16pc earning A\* and A grades, with every sixth former passing all their exams.

"The high number of top grades, with more grades A\*-C compared to the rest of the country, is a testament to the hard work of local pupils and teachers, and I wish students across Westminster the best of luck in their future education, training and work," said Cllr Suhail Rahuja, deputy cabinet member for children and young people.

"Westminster Council has a range of support to help young people get their foot on the career ladder, gain work experience or find training – so please get in touch. Congratulations once again to all students who have received results."



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■ Mohamed – role model

Mohamed was one of Pad-dington Academy's high-flying A-level pupils. Other star performers included Andre Thomas, who is looking forward to studying natural sciences at University College London after scoring A\*, A, B.

The sixth formers as a whole performed very well, with the school celebrating its best-ever A-level results.

The number of students earning A\* to C grades increased to 70 per cent – up by five per cent on last year's total. The proportion of entries gaining top scores also increased with a fifth achieving one or more A\* and A grades.

Principal Oli Tomlinson said she was pleased to see their hard work had been rewarded.

"For staff it is always particularly lovely to see students we have known since Year 7 go on to excellent universities," she said.

"I am very proud of them all and of our staff for the hard work they invest in helping our students achieve so highly."

so was not at the school on the day to collect his results.

However, friends and teachers were thinking of him.

"We're really proud of him and how he worked so hard. I thought he would have given up on his education but he was really brave and kept going," said close friend Kamal Deris.

"It just shows that there should not be an excuse for any of us. You can get to where you want to if you work hard. He's a great role model."

A*-E 2014,	A*-A 2013,	A*-C 2013,	A*-E 2013
100	28	85	99
99	18	65	100
100	16	84	100
96	17	59	97
100	12	75	96
100	42	92	99
100	X	X	X
100	57	98	100
99	29	78	98
98	35	81	100

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"Students are making good progress and some make outstanding progress."  
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# School achieves record exam success

Joyful celebrations after 64 per cent of Quintin Kynaston's students receive grades A\* to C

by Samantha Lewis  
samantha.lewis@archant.co.uk

Students from Quintin Kynaston Academy earned themselves a pat on the back as it was revealed last week that the school had exceeded all its previous A-level results.

The success stories came in thick and fast on Thursday morning when anxious teenagers gathered at the St John's Wood school to discover the outcome of two years of hard work.

Overall, 64 per cent of pupils achieved grades A\* to C with several top scorers ripping open their results to find they had attained A\* and A grades.

## Unconfident

Among those was Miguel Rodrigues Gomes, who secured his place at King's College to study physics after achieving two A\*s and two As, despite not feeling confident about how his summer exams had gone.

"The A\* in maths threw me off because one of the exams was very bad, but I still managed to get an A in that," he said.

Miguel hopes to go on to do an MA and then a PhD after his undergraduate degree, adding: "If I get doctor or professor in front of my name, that would definitely be a good thing."

Another student pleasantly sur-



■ Students, including Seena Saberi-Movahed, left, celebrate their A-level results

prised by his results was Seena Saberi-Movahed, who had felt disappointed as he went into school after being turned down to study medicine at all of his chosen universities.

But he could not wipe the smile off his face when he found out that he had achieved two A\*s and an A – much higher than his predicted grades.

"I'm over the moon because

it was completely unexpected. I thought I might have got a B in biology, but it turns out I got an A\*," he said.

He thanked the school for being "overly supportive" over the last two years and now plans to reapply to study medicine at a range of prestigious universities.

In 28 subjects the school reported a 100 per cent pass rate and highlighted glowing grades in fur-

ther maths, with 50 per cent of the class achieving an A\* or A.

Headteacher Alex Atherton congratulated all of the students and gave a special mention to Weihang He, who joined the school two years ago after arriving from China.

She spoke limited English to begin with but worked extremely hard to overcome the language barrier and earned herself one



A\*, three As and a B. She will start a degree in maths at University College London next month.

"We have a lot of students who've done exceptionally well and a lot of students whose hard work has really paid off," Mr Atherton went on.

"There are also some very happy members of staff who have really gone the extra mile with these students."

## I'm following in the family's footsteps to study at Oxford

Jubilant teenagers were seen jumping for joy at Francis Holland School as the nail-biting wait for their A-level results came to an end.

The Regent's Park school is sending its students off to some of the country's top universities after all of its girls passed their exams with grades A\*-E.

One of the best set of results came from Tessa Sandford Bondy who scored two A\*s and an A and will now study history at Oxford University.

She will be the third generation of her family to attend the prestigious university after her mother read politics, philosophy and economics – and before that her grandparents met while studying in the grand setting.

"My mum's over the moon and she wants to come and visit me," she said.

"My family didn't put any pressure on me but it's nice that I can continue the tradition."

Her passion for history was ig-

“My family didn't put any pressure on me but it's nice that I can continue the tradition

Tessa Sandford Bondy,

nited as a child when she grew up hearing stories about her Jewish grandfather who fled to London when the Nazis invaded Prague just before the Second World War.

Over the years, and some inspiring teachers later, Tessa set her sights on gaining a degree in the subject and now cannot wait to pack her bags and head off to Oxford next month.

"I'm so thrilled about going and I'm excited to get there and meet

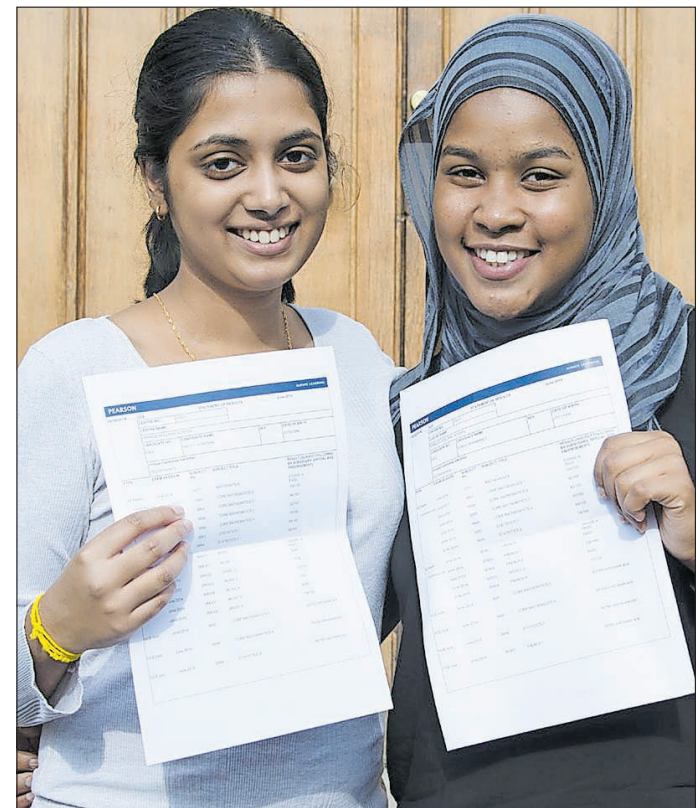
my tutors and like-minded people," she added.

Other high achievers included two students who are both going to read medicine. Sarah Mohammed is headed for Imperial College after achieving two A\*s and an A, and Sruthi Suresan is off to Barts The London School of Medicine and Dentistry thanks to her A\* and three As.

The percent of students who achieved A\* and A grades was slightly down on last year at 55 percent compared with 57 percent, which could have been a result of a national clampdown on exam re-sits and a move towards tougher subjects.

Headteacher Vivienne Durham paid tribute to the girls: "We've had a great year and we're delighted that the students have achieved so well."

She went on: "We've had one of our best years for A\* and A grades. We're thrilled their hard work has been rewarded in their fantastic results."



■ Sruthi Suresan and Sarah Mohammed from Francis Holland School