

A-level results

By HANNAH WILLIAMSON



Triumph: Binrui Zhang

Girl defies difficulties

A student who barely spoke English when she arrived in the UK from China two years ago defied the odds to grab excellent grades.

Year 13 pupil Bin Rui Zhang joined Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School from China at the start of year 12, speaking little English. But she triumphed in her A-level exams, getting a grade A* in maths, B in Chinese and C grades in further maths and art.

Elizabeth Hidson, deputy headteacher, described her grades as "an amazing achievement".

Other pupils the school said had done exceptionally well were Elizabeth Tran, who got two A grades and a B in chemistry, maths and biology. Jennifer Conway achieved the highest grades in vocational studies – distinctions in hospitality, business studies and IT.



Science star: Elizabeth Tran

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Results: Tutor Jenny Butcher, centre, with successful students Sophie Hack, Katje Williams, James Juggaroo and Joanne Trott, Oasis Academy Coulsdon

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Students celebrate best A-level grades

Sixth form colleges across the borough achieved some of their best A-level results this year.

Private and state schools in Croydon were celebrating last week, as hundreds of teens obtained the grades needed to secure their places on university courses around the country.

Woodcote High, in Coulsdon, was the first school to share its success, with pupils achieving a 99 per cent pass rate and 60 per cent of pupils achieving A* to C grades. More than 70 per cent of students at the school secured places at their first choice university.

Sixth formers at Oasis Academy Coulsdon celebrated achieving a 100 per cent pass rate in the school's first ever A-level exams, with 40

per cent of students obtaining A* to B grades.

More than half of the students at Coloma Convent Girls school got A* to B grades in their exams, and the school also achieved a 99 per cent pass rate.

Thirty-two students secured at least one A* grade and nine pupils got three A* to A grades.

Girls at Old Palace of John Whitgift School achieved a 10 per cent increase in the number of A* and A grades from 2012.

More than half, 55 per cent of all grades, were A* or A and three quarters of students achieved places at their first choice university, with some students going on to continue their studies at Oxford and Cambridge.

Pupils at the Harris Federation, which includes sixth form colleges in Purley, South Norwood and Crystal Palace, got an average score of 776, the equivalent of two As and a B.

Coulsdon College students notched up a 94 per cent A-level pass rate and a 96 pass rate in its Btec courses and Croydon College achieved a 95 per cent A-level pass rate.

For a full set of results and for reaction from schools visit croydonguardian.co.uk.

On Thursday, August 22, GCSE students across Croydon will hope to emulate the success of their older colleagues. Visit croydonguardian.co.uk for details of all the GCSE results as they come in from across the borough.

Achievements in Croydon

Joanna Elmore and Dominic Lawson were among the exam success stories at Croydon College.

Joanna achieved three As in history, politics and English literature.

The 23-year-old, who went to collect her results with her proud mum, also earned an A* in sociology.

Joanna said: "The teachers here were amazing. I received lots of support and I am now excited to see what the future holds."

Fellow student Dominic Lawson said he was left ecstatic after discovering he had secured an A* in sociology and two Bs in English literature and politics.

He said: "I didn't expect an A*. I have never had such a good grade in my life."

He now plans to study for a



Excited: Joanna Elmore and Dominic Lawson

degree in international relations and politics at the University of Sussex.



Good work: Sir Dan Moynihan, Harris Federation chief executive, Christopher Parmenter who got two A*'s and three A grades and will be going to Cambridge, and Lord Harris of Peckham, Harris Federation sponsor

Exam success for refugee

A pupil whose parents arrived in the UK as refugees achieved straight A results.

Alen Cenanic was among the success stories at Harris Academy in Crystal Palace.

His family arrived in Britain from Bosnia as a refugees in 1994. He achieved an A* in maths and economics as well as As in maths and physics and secured a place at Nottingham University to study maths.

He said: "When I opened the envelope, I was trying to find the grades, when I saw the A* I thought 'no' at first, but then it kicked in. I am so overwhelmed by my results, I am just so happy."

Karian Annon, 18, from Croydon, whose mother Pauline died when she was 12

after suffering a blood clot, and whose father Dennis is fighting prostate cancer, will study medicine at Manchester University after getting an A* in psychology and A grades in biology and chemistry.

Selina Fecht also did extremely well, securing two A* grades and two As, but the 18-year-old was rejected by the four universities where she applied to study medicine.

Chris Parmenter also did very well, achieving two A*s and two A grades. The 18-year-old will be off to Cambridge next month to study engineering.

He said: "It was a lot of hard work, but you get out what you put in. My mum is especially pleased and has been bragging to her friends."

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Surgery is no obstacle to A levels

Whitgift pupil Jamie Oyebo, achieved an A* in general politics and two As in English and Theology. The 18-year-old,

who will go to Durham University next month, obtained great results despite undergoing brain surgery last year.

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