

The agonising wait is over as teenagers finally received their results. HANNAH WILLIAMSON reports



Jumping for joy: Principal David Millar joins in with celebrating students
Deadlinepix CR78751

Star pupils shine at GCSE

Students in Croydon have achieved the borough's best ever GCSE results, bucking the national trend. A number of schools saw an increase in the number of pupils achieving five or more A* to C grades including English and maths. More than 68 per cent of pupils achieved the Government standard and although the national figure has yet to be released, it is believed Croydon's results are above the national average. Harris Academy South Norwood were the first to post their results, where 76 per cent

of students achieved at least five A* to C grades including English and maths. All students achieved five "good" GCSEs, but Ricardo Barra did particularly well obtaining 13 A*s and A grades. More than 80 per cent of pupils at Woodcote High School met the Government standard and the overall number of passes at A* and A were also at a record high. There was a dramatic increase in the number of students achieving five A* to C grades at Harris Academy Purley. Last year the figure stood at 63 per cent, but this

year 75 per cent of students obtained the grade. Students at the Quest Academy got the school's best results with 94 per cent of pupils achieving five A* to C grades and 63 per cent meeting the more challenging benchmark of five A* to C grades including English and Maths. Croydon High School achieved a 100 per cent pass rate and at Coloma Convent Girls School where there was a 95 per cent pass rate including English and maths, 21 girls gained six or more A*s. Councillor Tim Pollard, cabinet member for children,

families and learning, said: "Provisional data indicates pupils at Croydon schools have achieved over 68 per cent for good GCSEs including English and maths. This represents an increase of about 6 percentage points on last year, making it our best-ever set of results. "While the national figure is not yet known, given that nationally results are being reported as down it is clear Croydon has drawn even further ahead of the national average. This is a real indicator schools are delivering the top-quality education the council has set as a priority."

Student who overcame tumour celebrates with others who made the grade



Overcoming adversity: Aaron Moore Deadlinepix CR78800

Aaron Moore achieved great grades despite recovering from a brain tumour he was diagnosed with in 2009. The 16-year-old achieved an A in religious education, Bs in additional science, English language and literature, ICT, maths and science, a C in statistics and a distinction in his travel and tourism Btec. The Harris Academy South Norwood pupil said: "I am very pleased and my family and friends are very happy. Everyone has said they are

proud of me." Aaron had cancer diagnosed in year 7 and did not return to school full-time until year 10 when he started studying for his GCSEs. The aspiring sports journalist said: "School were really good and gave me a reduced amount of subjects and a reduced timetable, it was quite hard. I have coped with it, but I worked hard, maybe harder than others because of the time I had off, but it paid off in the end."

Ricardo Barr got 13 A* and A grades, but said his results came as a shock as he was expecting Bs. The Harris Academy South Norwood student was the school's top performing pupil. The 16-year-old said: "I was expecting a few As and hoping for some A*s and Bs, so I was surprised. I did try and put in a lot of work into it and into my revision." Ricardo who is staying at the academy to study for four A-levels said he hopes to do an apprenticeship and become a mechanic or an engineer. He added: "My mum and dad are really proud and we have celebrated a bit. "Now I can really enjoy what is left of the holidays."



Lucky 13: Ricardo Barr with parents Walter and Silvana and his brother Luca Deadlinepix CR78782



Success: Niamh Buckingham, Rachel Ellens and Esther Ivens

Esther Ivens and Niamh Buckingham were Coloma Convent's most successful students. Both Esther and Niamh secured 11 A*s each. The girls said their results came as a nice surprise. Esther said: "I am really pleased, I wasn't expecting that many A*s. I did study a lot at home and at school, but I thought I would get As." Niamh, whose older sister also attended Coloma, added: "I did very similar subjects to Esther, and was aiming for As. I am really happy with my results, it was really good to finally get them." Rachel Ellens also did extremely well in her exams, closely following Esther and Niamh with 10 A*s. She said: "I am very pleased. I definitely wasn't expecting 10 A*s, I was aiming for As it was a good surprise." All three girls are staying on at Coloma to study for their A-levels.

Identical twins who turned down offers to join a League One football club to concentrate on their studies grabbed 17 A* GCSE results between them. Nick and Dan Thompson, both of whom already have a long list of achievements in sports were ecstatic with the results they got at Trinity School, Shirley. Nick, who aims to be a doctor, received eight A* grades while Dan, who wants to become an investment banker, got nine A* grades. The twins were both approached by Notts County FC for scholarships, but they declined with the intention of continuing their studies. Dad Guy said despite their close results, the boys did not compete with each other. They also both passed A-level maths. Both hope to study at Cambridge University after completing their A-levels.



Trinity twins: Nick and Dan Thompson who got 17A*s



Top: Charlotte Aston

Charlotte Aston was Royal Russell's School highest achieving student, after she got 12 A*s. The teenager said she is really happy all her hard work paid off with such great grades. She said: "I put in so much time, although the work was hard it was easy to learn. The teachers were fabulous and I couldn't have got 12 A*s without them."

"I know I would get some A*s because of module results but I thought I might slip one or a few." The 16-year-old who hopes to become a marine biologist, will return to Royal Russell school for her A-levels. She said: "I really couldn't have done it without the teachers, they made GCSEs as least stressful as they could possibly be."

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