



# ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S SCHOOL



9 September 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year which I am pleased to say has got off to an excellent start. I would also like to say a special welcome to all our new parents and students who have joined us.

We have begun the year celebrating the exceptional success of our students' performance in their GCSE, BTEC, A level and AS examinations, with some record breaking results. The headlines are:

## A level

At A level over 25% of all grades were an A\* or A grade, and well over 50% of the results achieved were A\*, A or B grades. 21 of our students gained 3 or more A\* or A grades. The **best ever** percentage of A\*-C grades and pass rates were achieved. Students' outcomes, as measured from their starting points, were in the **top 25%** nationally, and the overall school performance was rated as **'Very Good'** by ALPS.

These achievements are allowing the vast majority of St Bart's students to continue their studies at their chosen universities, with many securing places on highly competitive courses at top universities. All the students who had applied to Oxbridge, or to study medicine, were successful in gaining their university places.

## AS

At AS level an outstanding 93.3% of all entries achieved pass grades. 22% of all entries gained A grades and 69% of all entries gained at least a C grade. Again this represents our best ever percentage A-C and pass rates. The student performance was once again rated as **top 25%** nationally and the overall performance was rated as **'Excellent'** by ALPS. Congratulations to last year's Year 12.

## GCSE

We are also thrilled to be celebrating **record GCSE results** from last year's group of Year 11 students. The proportion of students achieving the crucial 5 or more A\*-C grades, including English and Mathematics, has reached an **outstanding 81%**. 88% of students achieved at least a C grade in English Language and 86% in Mathematics. Despite the evermore rigorous requirements being demanded by the Government and the examination boards, we are also delighted that close to

Andover Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 6JP Tel: 01635 521255 Fax: 01635 576320 email: stbartad@st-barts.org.uk Web: www.stbarts.co.uk  
Headteacher: Ms J A Mortimore BA (Hons), MA

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50% of our students achieved the gold standard English Baccalaureate (EBacc) measure by gaining C grades or better across five academic disciplines.

Over 80% of all grades achieved were a C grade or higher and just under a third of all grades were A\* or A. 46 students achieved at least 8 A\*/A grades, which is a remarkable achievement. Many congratulations to all these students on these excellent results and we wish them every success on their new courses.

I am now excited by the challenge of building on this success this year and we are pleased to welcome a number of new, inspiring staff to our team at St Bartholomew's, to support us on our journey to being outstanding in every way:

Rebecca Alden	Teacher of Geography
Susan Clare	Teacher of French & Spanish
Robert Cruise	Teacher of Religious Education
Joseph Durie	Teacher of English
Danny Galbraith	Teacher of Mathematics
Jane Goldie	Teacher of Mathematics
Helen Hedley-Smith	Teacher of French & Spanish
Sebastian Mundy	Teacher of Geography
Jonathan Olliver	Head of Film Studies
Winnie Oluoch	Head of Religious Education
Marcus Randal	Teacher of English
Susan Ridgard	Teacher of Biology
Georgina Robertson	Teacher of Music
Basil Timpson	Teacher of French & Spanish
Sam Williams	Teacher of Music
Carolyn Woodgate	Teacher of Biology
Kathryn Zabierek	Teacher of Biology

At St Bartholomew's School our key focus is on learning and we recognise each student as an individual, supporting them to achieve their full potential in an environment where they enjoy their learning and participate in the opportunities on offer. Throughout the year you will be sent home progress reports for your son/daughter. If you have any concerns at any point in time, please do not hesitate to contact us at the school, so that issues can be resolved early on.

Education and your child's success is about us working in partnership to ensure that your child reaches their true potential, wherever their talent lies. Therefore, as the new term begins, may I take this opportunity to ask again that you support us with the following, as these things really do make a difference:

- Ensure your child comes to school appropriately dressed and equipped to work and with the right attitude towards learning.

- Ensure your child attends at all times. At all the schools I have worked in I have been struck by the strength of the connection between students' attendance and their attainment. Students with 100% attendance are almost always among the highest achievers; students with attendance below 97% often find it difficult to keep up. Clearly children are sometimes too ill to come to school; however those that do struggle in usually outperform those that do not.
- Thirdly, there really is no substitute for hard work. Students who routinely complete their independent study always do well, so please support and encourage this.

Over the next few weeks we have important Parents' Information Evenings which I would urge you to attend, as they help you to support your child with their learning, and much essential information is given out at the evenings. The forthcoming Information Evenings are:

Tuesday 9 September:	Year 12 Parents' Information Evening, 7pm in the Hall
Thursday 11 September:	Year 7 Parents' Information Evening, 7pm in the Hall
Monday 22 September:	Year 10 Parents' Information Evening, 7pm in the Hall

Finally, I would like to thank you in advance for working with us to ensure the best for your child. We look forward to a happy and successful year, where we continue to celebrate and be proud of all our students.

Yours faithfully



Ms J A Mortimore  
Headteacher