

A-LEVEL RESULTS

My A-level experience



Former Elizabeth College student, currently an Editorial Assistant at the Guernsey Press, Stephen King, 18, with his A-level results.

by Stephen King

A-LEVELS are renowned for being daunting. Your work during GCSEs is dwarfed in comparison – there is more work, harder work and less free time.

On top of this, it quickly becomes clear that dreams of going to university also depend on you achieving the highest of grades.

So, without a doubt, the start of A-levels for any student is a challenging time, and it can often seem that there is no 'light at the end of the tunnel' until you finally open your results slip.

For me, I never intended to go to university, and so I never had that element to worry about, but I can only imagine how much worse it must have been for those who did want to pursue that path. Saying that, my journey was certainly not stress-free.

I had a good first year, and came out with some strong results, though I still tripped up on one of my subjects.

Luckily, the system allowed for that, and I started the second leg with some strong marks in the bag.

But of course – as is the way with A-levels – nothing is ever easy, and just as my final exams came around, I got food poisoning after a lunch out with friends.

I woke up the night before my second exam feeling less than well, and could not help but chuckle at the predicament I found myself in.

I missed one of my exams, and was not anywhere near 100% for another, and, as I am sure you can imagine, was not happy about the whole situation.

So when all was said and done, I opened my results yesterday and achieved two Bs and a C, which I will freely admit was lower than I would have liked originally, but after the stress that my peers and I faced, is something I can walk away from with my head held high.

In retrospect, while I certainly dealt with the stress better than most, the intensity prepares you like nothing else for the road ahead.

Smiles all round at Elizabeth College

by Nicola Gibbons

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ASPIRATIONS of becoming a Royal Navy officer, pharmacist and mechanical engineer are now well within reach for some Elizabeth College students as a record 18.4% of results were at the top A* grade.

Beaming smiles, congratulatory pats on the back and fist pumps could be seen as the anxious pupils collected their A-level results.

The college's overall pass rate for the 54 upper sixth students was 98% – 1% down on last year.

But 41% of the boys achieved A* and A grades.

High achiever TJ Fitzgerald, 18, was among three students who will now be going to Oxford University after getting three A*s in geography, maths and history.

'It has been a lot of hard work and I have given up everything so that I could study and give myself the best possible chance.

'I am over the moon and will now be going to Oxford to study geography.'

Jonty Inderwick, 18, will now be joining the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm as a pilot officer. He needed three Ds, but achieved two As in design technology and Geography and a B in physics.

'I'm very happy, I got what I was aiming for.'

Jack Colley, 17, wiped the floor with four A*s in English, history, Latin and maths. He will now pursue English at Oxford.



Elizabeth College student Tom Craze, 18, gets his results from deputy head teacher Rick James.

(Picture by Adrian Miller, 15871399)

'It has been a long process, but one which I have really benefited and learnt a lot from.'

Tom Craze, also 18, was 'chuffed' when he achieved an A* in geography and Bs in chemistry and biology.

He will now be studying pharmacy for four years at Manchester University.

'I feel amazing and so happy. I didn't do quite as well in my

AS results so worked hard this year.'

Charlie Reeves can now pursue his dream of becoming a mechanical engineer after gaining two A*s in maths and further maths and A in physics.

'This year I did work hard and it's paid off – I'm ecstatic.'

Principal George Hartley said: 'There are many fine academic scholars in this year

group, some of whom did not "pass" the 11-plus seven years ago, heading off the UK's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

'Once they have found their niche in life they invariably flourish as happy, confident and successful individuals who will make a real difference in their respective fields around the world.'

Ladies' College attains 100% pass rate

by Juliet Pouteaux

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MORE than 45% of the Ladies' College A-level results were A*s and As – a 5% rise on last year's total.

Among the students celebrating yesterday morning was Meghan de la Rue, 18, who achieved an A* and two As in biology, chemistry and maths, as well as an A in AS further maths.

She is going to study medicine at Kings College London.

'I was really worried about the maths result,' she said.

'I got higher than I needed for university. I'm shaking.'

Sophie James, 18, got As in psychology, maths and English.

'I'm so pleased,' she said.

'I did not think it would happen.'

She will be starting a degree in psychology at Exeter in September.

Principal Ashley Clancy was



Ladies' College students checking their A-level results yesterday.

(Picture by Tom Tardif, 15871542)

pleased with the 49 students' results. They achieved a 100% pass rate, with 78% of results between A* and B – a rise of nearly 8% on last year.

'They have worked really hard,' she said.

Veterinary medicine is a

tough course to get accepted on and Zosia Damsell, 18, thought she had missed out on her first choice, after Liverpool did not give her a firm offer.

But her A*s in biology and chemistry, as well as an A in maths, persuaded them to give

her a place yesterday.

'I didn't think I would do that well,' she said.

'I'm pleased. It was a bit of a shock.'

Laura Smith, 18, has taken her first steps towards becoming a lawyer, after getting a place to study law at Oxford. She got A*s in psychology, English and history, as well as an A in chemistry.

'I hadn't expected it,' she said.

'I was worried about all of my results and I needed these grades.'

She was so nervous she had even done a spreadsheet of clearing numbers.

Olivia Younger, 18, will be starting a degree in music at Bristol in September, after getting an A in drama and Bs in music and psychology.

'I was so nervous that I was up at 5am,' she said.

She found out she had got into Bristol at 7.30am and burst into tears.