



Press Release: Five Islands Academy GCSE Results 2024

Students, parents and the staff of Five Islands Academy have been celebrating an outstanding set of GCSE results today.

This year, students took exams and completed coursework in 20 different Level 2 qualifications - as wide an offer as that in much larger schools. Official comparisons with national data cannot be made until this is published in September, but current indications suggest that Academy's record of achieving well above the national average for both progress and attainment has been sustained and continues to grow.

The average grade across all Level 2 qualifications gained was 5.7, which is a whole grade higher than the 2023 average across England. Particularly high marks across the board were achieved in English, Science, History, DT, Engineering, Art and Music. At Five Islands, 94% of students passed English GCSE, and 88% passed Maths - far above the national average.

We are particularly proud this year of the achievements of our students with special educational needs and disabilities. All our young people have had to overcome barriers in their school careers including the huge disruption of Covid, but for over a third of our 2024 cohort who have additional needs, their hard work and resilience alongside improvements in adaptive teaching have enabled their diverse strengths to shine out. The average Progress 8 score (a national measure across 8 key qualifications) for our students with additional needs is currently estimated to be more than a whole grade higher in each subject than peers with similar starting points across the country.

We would like to celebrate the following students' achievements individually: Lizzie R's Grade 7 in DT, Daisy's Grade 8s in Science and History, Oliver B's Grade 8 in English, Jeremiah's starred Distinction (Grade 8.5 equivalent) in Engineering, and Arlo's impressive array of GCSEs at 8 and 9. We would also like to congratulate parents, who have been so engaged with and supportive of their children's education during their time at Five Islands.

New adventures lie ahead, and new challenges. Our students are going far further than across 28 miles of the Atlantic Ocean for their post-16 education: to Truro, Falmouth, Bournemouth, Winchester, Southampton, Taunton, and even as far as Scotland. Families make great sacrifices to ensure their Isles of Scilly children can access further education on an equitable basis with their national peers. Some take on significant debt to pay for safe boarding accommodation with good pastoral care, and others are even moving away from the islands with their children. We continue to support the current discussions between parents, the Isles of Scilly Council and central government to try to secure adequate funding to pay for travel and fully regulated boarding. Five Islands children are amazing; they leave our Academy ready to develop their academic and vocational skills at the highest levels, and we wish to see them supported to flourish wherever their journey takes them.