



Archbishop Temple School

A Church of England Specialist College

September 2013

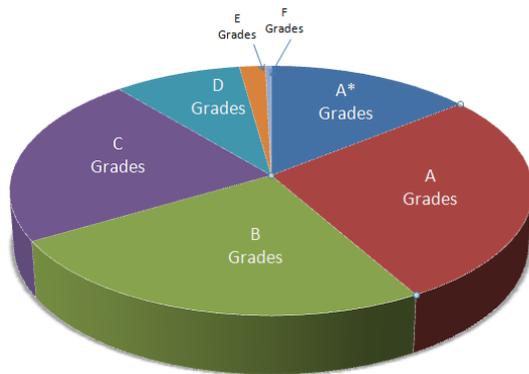
Dear Parent / Carer

It has been a pleasure to welcome our young people back to a new academic year last week. 153 very well turned out pupils have joined us in year 7 and seem to have settled in remarkably quickly to many new systems and routines.

Examination results

In a changing GCSE examination climate, I am delighted that our results have remained largely unchanged from previous years, and we still have the best results from any (non selective) school in the county.

96% of our pupils achieved 5 or more A*-C grades (compared to the national average of 68%), with 89% of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C grades, with English and Maths.



GCSE results 2013

40% of our grades are at A/A*. This is a superb achievement by our pupils. Many subjects achieved excellent results; Mathematics and English in particular sustained their outstanding performance with 96% achieving a grade C or above in Maths, and 94% in English.

This pie chart clearly demonstrates the very high standard achieved by Archbishop Temple pupils this year.

There were a number of outstanding individual performances with 2 pupils achieving 11 A* and 14 pupils achieving 6 or more A* grades.

Reminders

Inset day: I would just like to remind parents that we have a staff inset day on Friday 27th September and the school will be closed to pupils on that day. This follows our Open Day on Thursday 26th September for prospective pupils and parents to visit the school.

Authorised absence: I would also like to reiterate the new legislation affecting absence from school. Previously schools have been allowed to grant pupils a leave of absence of up to 10 days for a family holiday in "special circumstances" and for more than 10 school days in "exceptional circumstances" during term time. From 1 September 2013 headteachers will not be

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able to grant **any** leave of absence during term time unless there are "exceptional circumstances". "Exceptional circumstances" might include such circumstances as 1 (or at most 2) days for the funeral or wedding of a close relative (ie a parent or a sibling), or participation in a national event or awards ceremony. Taking pupils out of school for the purpose of holidays will no longer be acceptable and will not be authorised.

Cars on St Vincent's Road and on the school site: Could I also ask parents to drop their children off in the bus park next the front drive. Please don't simply pull over on St Vincent's Road; it causes a huge amount of disruption. I know it is easier for individuals, but collectively it causes chaos. I have seen too many near misses with children crossing the road when a frustrated driver pulls out to get round a car "just dropping off". Please think of others and add a minute or two to your journey to keep all the children safe.

Could I also remind parents not to drive up the main school drive to drop children off in the mornings; the front of school is extremely busy between 8 and 9 am with both pupils and staff arriving and we cannot accommodate extra traffic.

Uniform and appearance: Thank you to everyone for ensuring that children in years 7-9 are wearing clip on ties. They will be expected to wear these throughout their time in school, so next year they will be compulsory for years 7-10. I am aware that Monkhouse, our official stockist has run out of stock, and will not be restocking for some weeks. However Smart Clothing will have full stock available from Tuesday 10th September. The PTA forum in December will be talking about uniform. I would appreciate as many people as possible joining in a discussion about ensuring good value, practicality and easy availability of our uniform.

A large number of pupils have returned wearing our special anniversary hoodie. I'm sure they will prove very popular especially when winter arrives, as they are very snug and comfortable. These are available from Smart Clothing too.

Contact with the school: Please do keep in touch with our news via our website. The email address info@archbishoptemple.lancs.sch.uk remains the best way to get in touch with us with either information or concerns. Nearly all staff have very full timetables and it is very unlikely that they will be able to respond to phone calls during the day. The school calendar is on the website.

Forthcoming events: The school is celebrating our 50th anniversary this year with a number of events and opportunities for celebration, fundraising and thanksgiving. I have no doubt that our wonderful PTA will be in touch with you shortly with details of upcoming events but just to give you advance warning, our Promises Auction will take place on 25th October. Do come and join us. I will be writing separately to ask you to consider making a promise for us to auction, but please book the date in your diary.

We look forward to a busy and challenging year ahead!

With best wishes

Mrs Gill Jackson
Headteacher