

# Anna swaps Carmel for Cambridge...

A LINGUISTICS student who has overcome her stammer will continue her fascination with languages at Cambridge University, writes Ian Lamming.

Anna Harding, a student at Carmel College, Darlington, secured two A\*s and an A in history, French and English literature, respectively, to read Asian and Middle Eastern studies, specialising in Chinese, at Cambridge.

Anna, from Sedgfield, said: "I developed a stammer when I started secondary school for some reason. I always talked really fast and had to have speech therapy at school, which really helped. It gave me an interest in linguistics.

"Going to Carmel also helped me to discover Chinese. We studied Mandarin instead of some French lessons and I did a Chinese GCSE. I love it and am really looking forward to it being my degree."

For student Elliot Nicholson, 17, from Darlington, results day will be a launch pad into the global e-sports industry. He will read a degree in e-sports at Staffordshire University after thriving at Carmel's popular e-sports club.

Dental student Erin Flynn will be able to pursue her dream of becoming an orthodontist thanks to securing two As and a B in her A-Levels.

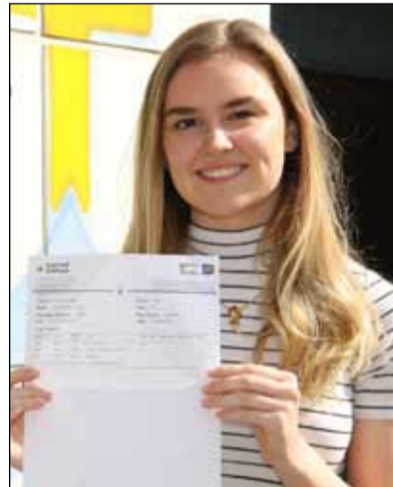
She will read dentistry at Newcastle University with her fellow Carmel student Jude Blackmore. Both Erin and Jude transferred from St Michael's Catholic Academy, Billingham, to study at Carmel College Sixth Form.

Erin said: "I have absolutely loved my two years at Carmel – they were so supportive with my studies during lockdown. I want to be an orthodontist specialising in reconstructive surgery and cleft palates."

Dame Maura Regan, chief executive of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, added: "This really is a great day to celebrate given the disruption to their education over the past two years. The press keep talking about grade inflation but I challenge this in the strongest terms. These grades reflect both the ability and the hard work of students and staff and should be acknowledged as such."



Off to fulfill their dreams – Anna Harding, above, and Erin Flynn, below.



Elliot Nicholson is heading to Staffordshire University to read a degree in e-sports.



# St Bede's students shine despite facing many challenges

STAFF at Our Lady and St Bede Catholic Academy, Stockton, have spoken of their pride at how well pupils have coped during the pandemic.

They include Kirstan Soralde, pictured, who achieved grade 9s in all his GCSE subjects.

Head teacher Mrs Mo Wilkinson said: "Whilst it has been an incredibly challenging year for all our pupils, they have done exceptionally well. They have been through a rigorous programme of assessments and examinations, and have thoroughly earned their results. We are incredibly proud of every one of them."

# Bright sporting future for Adam



Adam McAuliffe pictured with fellow Year 11 students Octawia Przybyl and Madelene Bramfitt.

THE 2024 Paris Olympics could be the next step for Britain's top Muay Thai boxer and St John's Catholic Academy student Adam McAuliffe.

Adam, 16, from Newton Aycliffe, will now study sport and nutrition at higher level after completing his GCSEs.

"I've been doing the sport Muay Thai for five years and it's now just been accepted into the Olympics," he explained. "I'm fighting in the European Championships and am number one in the UK in the sport."

Teachers also congratulated the school's top

performing girl, Imogen Walton, 16, from Spennymoor, who achieved seven grade 9s and two grade 8s and its top performing boy, Matthew Melody, 16, from Newton Aycliffe, who achieved eight grade 9s and two grade 8s.

Headteacher Lisa Byron said: "Despite the difficult year they have been resilient and dedicated to their studies, whether working at home or in school."

"We are delighted with their excellent efforts and wish them every success and happiness as they begin their further education or training courses."

# Top A-Level grades send Mia somersaulting to the USA



Phoebe Dempsey, who will be heading to Glasgow to study zoology.

AN ARTISTIC gymnast has achieved her dream of combining academic study with sport at an American university after securing three A\* A-Level grades, writes Ian Lamming.

Mia Scott, a student at St John's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Bishop Auckland, part of the Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust, will head off to the University of Illinois this autumn.

Mia, 18, from Shildon, said: "My results have absolutely exceeded expectations and I'm really excited to start. We have had online lessons, online exams, mock exams and a lot of disruption, but St John's has been so supportive – especially during my training – allowing me to attend after-

school sessions to catch up on work. I am going to Illinois so I can continue my gymnastics at the college alongside a psychology degree."

Mia has represented the GB Development Team, the Espoir England Team, the Junior Great British Team and the Senior England Team.

Fellow artistic gymnast-turned tumbler Elisha Yorke, 18, is heading to Manchester University to read Spanish and Business Management after achieving A\*, A and B in her A-Levels. Elisha, from Bishop Auckland, competed for Great Britain in Portugal whilst at St John's.

Phoebe Dempsey, 18, from Bishop Auckland, will head to the University of Glasgow to study zoology, after achieving two Bs in Physics and Biology and a C in Chemistry.



Gymnasts Mia Scott and Elisha Yorke.