**Headteacher hails pupils who took exams as Grenfell Tower burned**

**Kensington Aldridge academy headteacher ‘proud and inspired’ by students who worked on while the inferno raged**

David Benson, headteacher of Kensington Aldridge Academy, is hoping for an excellent set of results at AS level. Photograph: Sarah Lee for the Guardian

On the morning of 14 June as the [Grenfell Tower](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/grenfell-tower-fire) inferno raged on, 56 “shellshocked” pupils from the nearby [Kensington Aldridge academy](http://www.kensingtonaldridgeacademy.co.uk/), many of whom had fled the fire just hours earlier, filed into a hastily rearranged exam hall to sit AS maths.

Today, two months after the tragedy which claimed the lives of at least 80 people including five of their fellow pupils, these teenagers will be among thousands who will wake up and receive their exam results.

For many, the school has become a beacon of hope in a shattered community. David Benson, the school’s headteacher, is hoping for an excellent set of results with a high proportion of As and Bs at AS-level in the

Praising the resilience shown by his students throughout the ordeal, he said: “I’ve been proud and inspired by what our students have done this year, being our first sixth formers. I’ve been even more proud and inspired by what they did in response to the fire.”

Four of his pupils, and one former pupil who had recently left the school, died in the blaze. A handful of other students who lived in the tower escaped with their lives – some with injuries – while others have been rehoused.

In total, 56 out of 60 students made it to the exam on 14 June. They were “shellshocked”, says Benson, and some in borrowed clothes but they still came.

Others studied during their convalescence, including Georgina Smith, a younger year 8 student, who diligently emailed her computer science homework to her teacher from her hospital bed.

Almost all have continued to turn up for their lessons – with attendance at 90%.

 “The overwhelming majority of students were eager to get back to school,” says Benson. “They were eager to see their friends. They understood the importance of getting on with their learning and lessons.”

**Thought for the week: 19th November 2018**

Young people are truly inspirational…and this is why.

***Abstract Nouns*** – ‘things’ that you cannot actually see (like war, hate, love, peace, etc).

Also known as **emotive language.**

Why do newspapers use lots of these?