

## **Wellfield High School Delighted by Improved GCSE Results**

There were emotional scenes at Wellfield this morning as students, staff and parents celebrated a fabulous upturn in results. These were all the more significant as it is the first year of subjects being assessed against more robust and demanding GCSE criteria. It is an indication of the swift progress being made at the Leyland school, which Ofsted described this year as 'transformed'.

All three of the core subjects of English, Maths and Science were up, and successes were also noted across the board with the school's overall attainment score up 5% on previous years.

One of the main targets for improvement from Ofsted in 2016 was in Science, and Wellfield are thrilled with the huge strides being made here. 60% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in Science, which is an incredible improvement of 27% from last year. Mr Towers, who was appointed Lead Practitioner for Science in September 2017, said: "The new Science curriculum is more academic and rigorous than ever before and students had a lot of ground to make up when the new team came. Everyone has worked tremendously hard to achieve these results. I'm extremely pleased with the direction in which we're heading and I'm humbled at how positively the students have responded."

In the other core subjects, at grade 5 (now described as the 'strong pass'), Maths is up by 4%, and English up 10%.

Exceptional performances can also be found in Art, Photography, ICT and Computer Science. In fact, 100% of students entered for Computer Science achieved at least the 'standard pass' (grade 4), a tremendous achievement in the first year of the award at the school. Mrs Starbuck, Head of the Creatives Faculty, said: "These achievements across the faculty are a vindication of the school's continued support of creative subjects in our broad and rich curriculum offer. I'm delighted with this success."

There are also some excellent individual successes for Wellfield students, with a number of them securing multiple grades at the grade A/A\* equivalent, now awarded as grades 7 to 9. Elmira Kubenova and Rebekah Hutchinson both achieved four grade 9s each in their wonderful sets of results. Grade 9s are only awarded to the top 3% of students nationally, which is an amazing achievement for these students. This is particularly remarkable in Elmira's case, a student who joined the school in Year 10 from Kazakhstan and made rapid progress in so short a time.

Amber-Rose Townson achieved three 9s and Abram Ebreo two 9s in their results, along with other grades at the top end. Will Donaldson achieved eight A/A\* equivalents and Natalie Taylor achieved seven grades at this high level. In addition, there were many other students achieving superb levels of success across the ability range in relation to targets, a real testament to all the hard work and commitment put in by students and staff alike.

Mrs Gwinnett, Executive Headteacher, said: "I am over the moon for our staff and students who have worked so hard this year; rising to the challenge of higher expectations and standards, and thriving in this environment. It is a genuine privilege to work with everyone at Wellfield during this exciting time. We are thrilled with these results."

Mr Barnard, Head of School, added: "I'm so proud of the students. We threw down the gauntlet and they responded. I would like to thank staff for their tireless efforts with our youngsters, and also thank parents for their support this year; only by working together can we continue this journey of success."