



## A LEVEL & BTEC EXCELLENCE

The Sixth Form College, Solihull is celebrating exam success in 2017. The College, which is part of the Ninestiles Academy Trust, has achieved an impressive 435 starred grades (A\* at A level and Distinction\* at BTEC level).

Hundreds of students are looking forward to their future careers thanks to their success, with 530 students having achieved all higher grades at advanced level (A\*-C at A Level or BTEC Merit or above). Among these students, 194 individuals obtained at least three or more A/A\* grades at A Level or Distinction/Distinction\* grades in BTEC courses.



Outstanding results have been achieved across many subject areas. Indeed, there is a 100% pass rate in 25 advanced level subjects. This includes BTEC courses, the results of which were confirmed last month.

College Principal Martin Sullivan commented, "I'm delighted with these results and I offer my congratulations to both the students and staff. A lot of hard work goes into achieving these outstanding results."

The majority of students at The Sixth Form College, Solihull choose to progress to university and they are going on to study a huge variety of subjects, from Law and Medicine to Architecture and Engineering and many more. Nine students have confirmed their progression to Oxbridge and Martin Sullivan is especially pleased to see the high level of support the College has given these students paying off.

"Even making an Oxbridge application is a challenging thing to do, as these students have been pitting themselves against some of the top minds not only in the UK, but from around the world. To get an offer is an achievement in itself, but they then faced the pressure of achieving the required grades. I'm delighted that these nine students have been rewarded with the grades they deserve."

**435**  
 ★ GRADES  
 (A\* AT A LEVEL & DISTINCTION\* AT BTEC)

**194**  
 STUDENTS WITH ALL TOP GRADES  
 (A/A\* AT A LEVEL & DISTINCTION/DISTINCTION\* AT BTEC)

**530**  
 STUDENTS WITH ALL HIGH GRADES  
 (A\*-C GRADES AT A LEVEL & DISTINCTION\* - MERIT AT BTEC)

**100% PASS RATE**  
 IN 25 COURSES  
 (ACROSS ALL A LEVEL & BTEC COURSES)

# OXBRIDGE PROGRESSION

An impressive nine students have secured places at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge this year.

Taking up a place at Cambridge is Sam Sayer (below). He is going to Homerton College, Cambridge to study Theology.



Sam commented, "I put myself through the process of applying to Cambridge because I thought I'd regret it if I didn't. I was told that the process would be beneficial to me even if I was rejected. I felt throughout that I might not have done enough and initially I wasn't putting too much pressure on myself to get in, but as you go through the different stages you find yourself wanting it more and more. I'm not sure what this will lead to, but I'm looking forward to getting started and I think it could lead to many different careers because the course is so inter-disciplinary and wide ranging. I hope in three or four years to be doing something that I never really thought I could be doing."

For Alfie Fellowes (right), a place at Pembroke College, Oxford to read Oriental Studies and Japanese awaits.

He commented, "I started to consider Oxbridge right after getting my GCSE results. There's an image that it's only for really

posh people, but that's an image they are trying to get away from. If you make the interview, they really help you and after you've done it you realise that it's less intimidating than you might think. The year abroad in Japan was a big draw for me with this course and I liked how unique the course is. This could open many doors for me, so for now I just want to enjoy the course and the experience."

Two of the successful Cambridge students are linguists Megan Bache and Esther Hurst. Both will be going to Churchill College, Cambridge, but while Megan will be studying French & German, Esther's course is French & Spanish.

Megan explained, "When it came to applying to Cambridge I just thought I may as well, because what did I have to lose. I never really thought it would happen, but the College was really supportive, especially my French and German teachers; they were really pushing me to say 'You can do this' and that drove me on. I'm going to be in the same French class as Esther Hurst. We deliberately applied to different colleges because we didn't want to be competing against each other for limited places, but we both got pulled to the same college, so it all worked out."



Esther added, "I feel very relieved and very excited to be going to Cambridge. My academic coach helped me a lot with my application and the languages department were very supportive in terms of preparing me for my interviews. I'm looking forward to the course and to the year abroad, which I am hoping to be able to split between France and Spain. I'm quite interested in journalism and working as a foreign correspondent or maybe even law, but I haven't thought too much about it yet."

Erin Minogue will also be going to Oxford, although in her case it will be to read English Language and Literature.

She commented, "I'm so relieved to have got in. It has been stressful, but I have got what I was striving for and I'm excited to be going to Oxford. I'm extremely grateful for all the help I received from College at every stage in my application, from the personal statement to the English Literature Admissions Test to the interview stage. Without the help and encouragement I received, the application process would have been much more daunting. Ultimately, I found that the interview stage, which I had been dreading most, was actually enjoyable as it was solely a discussion about a subject I love."

The other successful Oxbridge students are Toby Lowther, Rayhan Mahmud, Joseph Peace and Adam Taqi, with all four students progressing to the University of Oxford. Joseph is going to Magdalen College to take up a place on the Biology degree course, while Rayhan is continuing with his science studies on the Physics course at Merton College. Toby has a place at University College reading Linguistics & Philosophy and Adam Taqi is progressing to Pembroke College to study Theology.

# OUTSTANDING BTEC RESULTS

2017 has seen great success on our BTEC courses, with a record-breaking 350 starred grades achieved this year.

There are 199 second year BTEC students, who have finished their studies at the College in July. They were studying one of six BTEC Extended Diploma courses in Art & Design, Applied Sciences, Business, Health & Social Care, IT Practitioners or Sport.

BTEC Extended Diploma courses are equivalent to studying three A levels and are graded with distinction\* (star), distinction, merit and pass grades. 73% of students across all six courses achieved at least one distinction\* grade and 48% of our BTEC students attained the top triple distinction\* grade.

One of the most successful BTEC courses at the College this year was BTEC Health & Social Care. Every student on this course has achieved at least a triple distinction on this course, with 96% getting at least one distinction\* grade and three quarters of the year group getting the very top mark. Amaarah Hansa was one of the top achievers on this course and her success has earned her a place on the Adult Nursing course at Birmingham City University. Fellow student Ellie

Roberts also got the top grade and she is using her success to progress to Birmingham City University as well, in her case to study Midwifery.

The BTEC Sport course has also had a great year, with 64% of the students achieving a triple distinction\* grade. Gemma Queenborough was one of those students; she also achieved College Colours during her time at College, by demonstrating teamwork, leadership, social responsibility and by completing a challenge. She plans to use her success to work in the field of coaching disability sports; she is already running walking netball sessions.

In BTEC Art & Design, 24 students gained high grades (DMM or higher) and 11 students achieved a triple distinction\* grade. This is the second consecutive year BTEC students have achieved 100% high grades. 18 students are continuing onto degree courses nationally, across a variety of Art & Design disciplines. Numaan Farooq, a former Ninestiles Academy student, is one of 11 students with the top grade and he is progressing on to Birmingham City University to study BA (Hons) Fashion Design. He also impressed the judges in the Arden Decorative & Fine Arts Society awards this year. He won First

Prize for the 3 fashion garments he created exploring bold colour and pattern, along with a fashion video, evidencing his diverse and multi-disciplinary skills.

Both, the BTEC Applied Science and BTEC Business courses saw 41% of students achieving the very top grade, with 85% of Applied Science students getting at least 1 distinction\* grade and the same percentage getting at least one distinction in Business.

In Applied Science, Waqar Dad was one of 19 students to achieve a triple distinction\* grade. He will progress to Aston University to study Health Care in the autumn. Meanwhile, in Business, Zair Afzal is one of the high achieving students with top marks in his course. He also won this year's Dragon's Den competition at the College and is progressing to the University of Nottingham.

In the BTEC IT Practitioners course, every student on the course passed and 82% of the students got at least one distinction grade. Thomas Walsh is utilising his top grade to progress onto Coventry University to study Games Technology.



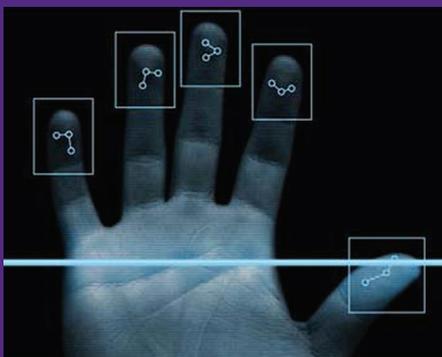
# NEW COURSES FOR 2018

While celebrating the success of 2017, we are also looking to the future and our recruitment for 2018 and the new recruitment cycle brings three exciting new courses for students to choose from. All three courses can be studied as part of a 3 or 4 A level programme.

## CRIMINOLOGY

Criminology is the study of the reasons why individuals commit crimes. By understanding why a person commits a crime, we can develop ways to control crime or rehabilitate the criminal. This course will enable you to use theories of criminality to analyse criminal situations and suggest ways of reducing crime. You will also develop the knowledge and skills to research policy in practice, assess campaigns for changes in awareness and examine information to review verdicts in criminal cases.

This is a Level 3 Diploma course. A two-year course, this is equivalent to one A level and can be studied as part of an A level programme.



## GEOLOGY



Geology is an addition to the College's list of A level courses.

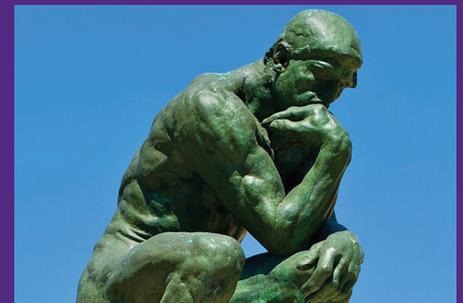
An Earth science subject, it is the study of how the Earth works and its composition, as well as the processes by which the Earth changes over time. The building blocks of the Earth (rocks and minerals) will be studied and fossils will be used to investigate past environments.

Natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and landslides will also be explored to see how geology is used in the construction of buildings, dams and bridges.

## PHILOSOPHY

Another addition to the College's list of A level courses, Philosophy is the study of the nature of knowledge, reality, and existence.

This course will challenge students to consider various views and understandings of the world around us. Influences such as family, friends, education, society and culture will be explored. Students will reflect on the arguments and positions taken by philosophers over the past 2,500 years. We pay close attention to these arguments, and carefully and rigorously analyse and evaluate them, to see whether they reveal some deeper truths about the world.



Learn more about these courses by visiting our website and coming to an Open Day.

[www.solihullsf.ac.uk/courses](http://www.solihullsf.ac.uk/courses)

Open Day

Open Evening

Information Evening

Saturday 7 October 2017 (9.30am - 3.30pm, last entry at 2.30pm)

Thursday 9 November 2017 (5.00pm - 8.00pm, last entry at 7.30pm)

Thursday 1 March 2018 (4.30pm - 7.00pm, last entry at 6.30pm)

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