



Downe House

22 August 2019

## PRESS RELEASE

### Great I/GCSE Results for Downe House girls

Today saw the publication of this year's I/GCSE results which have proved to be another fantastic achievement for Downe House girls.

This year saw 84% of all grades achieved were A-A\* (grade 7-9)<sup>†</sup> and of these, just over 30% of all grades awarded were at grade 9, the very highest level, which exceeds the A\* standard of the old GCSEs. 25%, or 1 in 4 pupils achieved an outstanding grade 9 A\* (grade 8-9) or above – all of which follows the introduction of a new rigorous exam system.

Mrs Emma McKendrick, Headmistress, announced: "These terrific results give us much cause for celebration. I am extremely proud of the girls' individual achievements and of the consistency of our results over recent years. This year was a year of national change with more demanding specifications across GCSE subjects and was the first year that numerical grades were applied to all subjects. The girls rose to these challenges very well indeed.

"I am also grateful to our staff for their dedication and commitment which supported our pupils in achieving these results. We look forward to seeing the girls raise the bar even further as they return to the Sixth Form ready to take on the challenge of the next stage of their educational journey."

<sup>†</sup> The UK Department for Education reformed examinations and their grades in 2017 and this process will continue until 2020 when all subjects will be graded against this scale. In the reformed GCSEs, grades 9-7 cover the range previously covered by grades A\*-A. In other words, there is greater differentiation at the top end of the attainment distribution – three grades in the place of two.

Full details can be [found on the DfE website](#)

## Ends

**Note to Editors:** Downe House is an independent boarding school for girls aged 11-18 located in Cold Ash, Thatcham. A traditional school with a determined focus on the future, we fuel aspiration and challenge the girls as they grow into confident young women ready and able to play an active role as global citizens. We offer GCSE and A Level courses and Downe House girls go on to study at universities all over the world.

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