



## Pupils beat the odds to achieve top results

MANY students produced outstanding success in their exams as Buxton School celebrated another year of GCSE exam results.

There were fantastic stories of pupils achieving against the odds as pupils got to grips with the new gradings at GCSE.

The school ran weekend, after-school and holiday-time revision and intervention sessions to ensure students were pushed to reach their potential.

Pupils achieved the results against a backdrop of the biggest shake-up to GCSE exams in a generation.

New exams in English language, English literature and maths were taken by the Year 11 students – which were graded in numbers, with nine as the highest mark and one the lowest.

Aspirational pupils talked of applying for the country's top universities and jobs in

high-profile professions after scoring top marks to confirm places on A Level courses, at college and on apprenticeships.

It comes just a year after Buxton ranked in the top 100 schools nationally for GCSE results, as well as being the best-performing mixed gender school in the borough of Waltham Forest.

The school received a letter from government schools minister, Nick Gibb MP, congratulating students and staff being in the top five per cent of schools for the exam results nationally, last year.

Headteacher Mrs Wheeler said: "We are very proud of our students and teachers who have worked to achieve their potential.

"We were very pleased that last year our success was recognised by the schools minister.

"We will be focused on the year ahead and

are determined to replicate our success and continue to set high standards.

"Buxton is proud to cater to all students, whether more able or in need of support. If you also believe this, then Buxton is the right school from you."

Deputy headteacher Theresa McGing praised the children who have smashed through language barriers to become top-performing students.

She said: "I think you would be hard-pushed to come across a group of more hard-working, resilient pupils than the ones we teach here at Buxton. No matter what issues they face, be it housing or language barriers or health issues, they come in and they work hard.

"Some of them have not been in the country long and they come in and achieve these kinds of results. They really are fantastic."



**Celebrate:** Student Lydia Khechine (left) was in jubilant mood after receiving her impressive exam results

# Clever Lydia sets her sights on law career

A BUXTON student who began secondary school without being able to speak English has set her heart on becoming a top barrister after achieving a staggering 12 GCSEs.

Lydia Khechine left Algeria and her parents at the age of 11 to live with her sister in Leytonstone, east London.

Just five years ago, the teenager knew only basic phrases in English such as “nice to meet you” and “my name is”.

But on GCSE results days, Lydia and her sister were over the moon to discover she had achieved five A\* grades, five As and two Bs.

Lydia will go on to study English, history, philosophy and politics before hoping to gain a place at a Russell Group university.

## Student aims to fight human rights issues

She said: “It was really challenging at first because sometimes you can be trying to take down what the teacher is saying and you don’t really understand what they are saying,” she said.

“The whole school system was different. I moved in with my sister and my parents are at home but she has always been so supportive.

“My teachers had a real impact on me – my RS teacher in particular would stay after school and give me books to read.”

Lydia, who speaks three languages, said she wants to become a barrister to campaign for human rights issues and social justice.

She was also part of the school’s debating team, which travelled to Eton, Imperial College and the London School of Economics to compete.

She said: “I am really happy. I honestly thought they would be lower grades. At Buxton, the teachers were always ready to explain anything I could not understand.

“They have made the difference to me and helped me with my dreams of going to a good university and becoming a barrister. Without them I don’t know if I would have done it.”

# Bright Wojciech eyes career as biologist

TALENTED Wojciech Rozek has taken a giant leap towards his dream of becoming a biologist after scoring top marks in his GCSEs.

The Polish student, who arrived in the UK just six years ago with his mother and his sister, achieved a remarkable four A\* grades and five As.

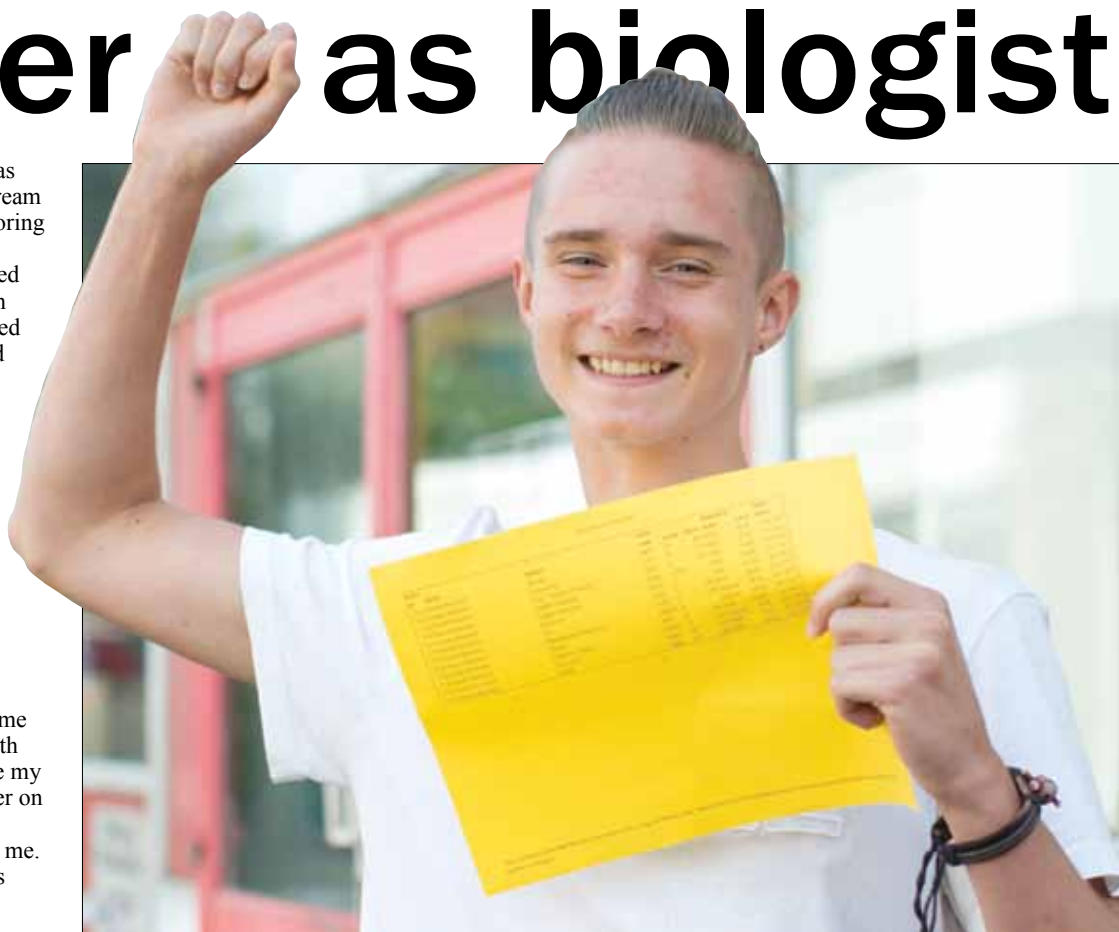
Wojciech, 16, said he plans to make his builder father and mother, a cleaner, proud of him.

At school in Buxton in Leytonstone, the teenager was able to take part in Saturday school to help him with his language skills.

He said: "At first I couldn't speak a word but later I could understand but I just could not respond to people.

"In Year 9, that's when I became fluent in English. I am happy with the grades. I really want to make my parents proud and help them later on in life.

"The school has really helped me. The teachers really help students when English isn't their first language."



## Xiao-Lin delighted to pass tough exams

STUDENT Xiao-Lin He said support from teachers at Buxton help her overcome the "difficult" new GCSE exams.

The 16-year-old secured the results she needed to study A Levels after achieving five A\* grades, seven As and one B.

She said: "I am really happy just to see the hard work has paid off.

"Everyone at Buxton is really well supported. They made sure everything was carefully explained so we did not have to worry about how it might affect us."

## Head boy Marco-Antonio so grateful for teachers' help

HEAD boy Marco-Antonio Thimotheo said he was over the moon to discover he had scored phenomenal results in his GCSEs.

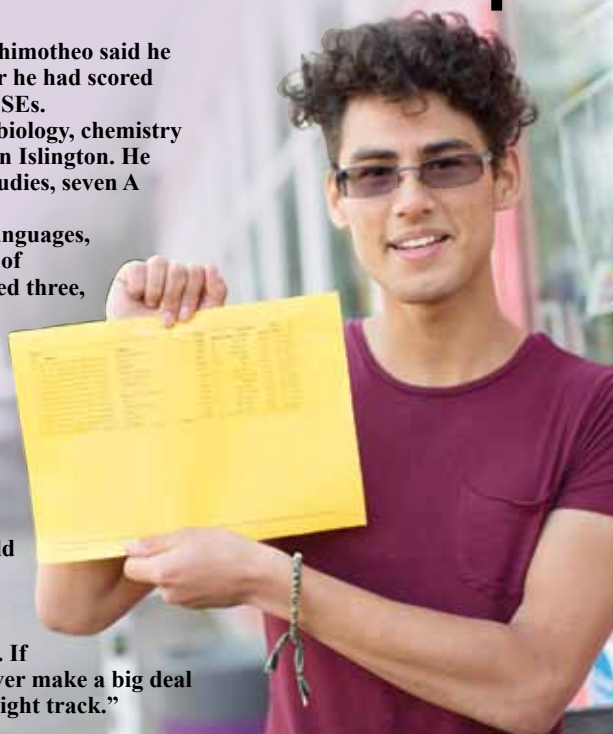
The 16-year-old will study biology, chemistry and physics A Levels at City in Islington. He achieved an A\* in religious studies, seven A grades and four Bs.

Marco, who speaks three languages, including multiple variations of Spanish, moved to the UK aged three, from South America.

Marco had high praise for the school, who helped him to make new friends around London and improve his employment skills.

He said: "GCSEs were the hardest time in our lives so far. The teachers stayed behind to help us and we could stay until 7pm to study.

"They wanted to make sure we had the best possible chance of getting high grades. If you get things wrong they never make a big deal of it and help you get on the right track."





# Students' impressive dedication

**WE** are very proud of our students and teachers who have achieved some wonderful results against the odds this year.

There has been some remarkable performances by our students, many of whom did not speak English when they arrived at our school.

The students have done well to achieve in the same year as a new

Head teacher Kath Wheeler reflects on the recent exam results...

grading system that provided an additional challenge.

The school ensured pupils were prepared by running a series of after-school and holiday intervention and revision sessions.

It is pleasing to see the hard work pay off for so many of those

who attended regularly. We were very pleased that last year our success was recognised by the Schools Minister. This year our students have continued to impress with their dedication and hard work, sometimes in adversity.

We will be focused on the year ahead and are determined to replicate our previous success and continue to set high standards.

# Dilan's progress just remarkable

STUDENT Dilan Herath has scored top marks despite only moving to the UK just three years ago from Italy.

His Sri Lankan family arrived in the UK in 2014 to seek a better life and now Dilan, 16, has set his sights on university.

In Year 9, the teenager had the support of a specialist teacher to translate lessons for him, from Italian to English.

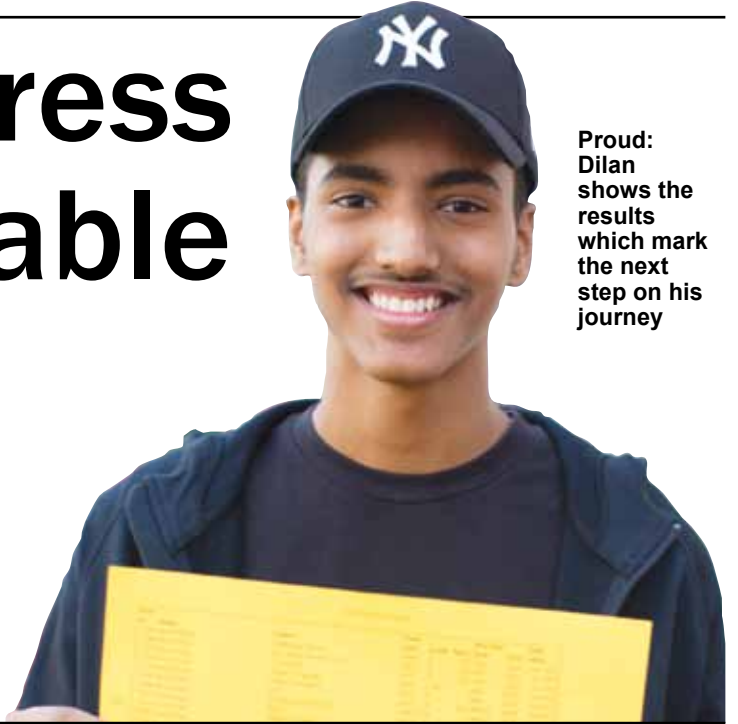
On GCSE results day, he discovered he had banked 10 top

GCSE grades from A\* to B and has set his sights on a place at the prestigious London School of Economics after A Levels.

He said: "At first I couldn't speak to anyone. For some lessons, a teacher came with me with an iPad and helped me understand what was being said. That really helped me.

"After a few months, I started to pick it up. I am really happy.

"I can't believe I got these grades."



Proud: Dilan shows the results which mark the next step on his journey



## Open Evening

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017

6.00pm - 8.30pm

We welcome visits to the school by appointment, please contact Tisha DaSilva.



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[www.buxtonschool.org.uk](http://www.buxtonschool.org.uk)

Twitter.com/BuxtonSchInfo - Instagram.com/buxtonschinsta - Facebook.com/BuxtonSchool,Leytonstone

## New grades introduced

BUXTON pupils achieved their results against a backdrop of the biggest shake-up to GCSE exams in a generation.

A new grade system is being phased in for GCSEs, starting this year.

New exams in English language, English literature and maths were taken by the Year 11 students, which were graded in numbers, with nine as the highest mark and one the lowest.

Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.

The number of entries achieving a C or above – or a 4 under the new system – has fallen by 0.6 percentage points since last year to 66.3 per cent – the record lowest since 2008.

Pupils with at least one A grade – or a 7 – has fallen by 0.5 percent to 20 per cent, the lowest since 2007 when the figure was 19.5 per cent.