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'We teach with our students, not to them or for them'

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PUPILS from schools across South London have been celebrating their GCSE exams with many posting outstanding results.

The results brought cheer to youngsters picking up their GCSE results across Lewisham.

There was also much to celebrate at Deptford Green School in Edward Street, Deptford where the top achievers included Amy Ma whose earned 11A*, 1A* distinction and 1A.

She said: "I'm astonished! I'll be celebrating this with a good meal out."

Her classmate Amy Le who notched up 8A*s, 2As and 1B said: "I'm so very happy. The hard work was definitely worth it."

Headteacher, Mark Phillips, said: "Deptford Green students should be very proud of their achievements. We are absolutely delighted to see the very hard work of students and staff pay off with some great results."

Sydenham School's acting headteacher Mrs Ruth Holden said the school's GCSE results were "simply amazing" as students celebrated.

"Most having opened their results envelopes to discover grades that more than met the standards they needed to pursue their A-level ambitions.

"These are the best results ever at Sydenham.

"We are delighted that our English results are 85.3 per cent for students receiving a C

or above, and maths is 77 per cent for those gaining a C grade or more.

"Overall the percentages of students gaining Cs or above or As and A*s were higher than ever with just under a quarter of our Year 11s' grades being either As or A*s.

"And on top of that, 22 students received a quite amazing eight or more As or A*s.

"I am pleased to send a huge well done out to all students, staff and parents."

Commenting on the maths results, associate assistant headteacher (Maths and Digital Technologies) Mark Freakes, said: "They are equal to the best we have ever achieved, and that's before taking into account the far more demanding context surrounding the subject with grade boundaries being higher, retakes no longer allowed,

course-work removed and all the emphasis placed upon a final set of 'sat' exams.

"Our results are well above our examination board Edexcel's national average by at least 7 per cent."

Top grades were clinched by many at Bonus Pastor Catholic College including top performer and head boy Dominic Bentham, who netted 11A*s.

He said: "I am really happy with my results. I have worked really hard for them. I want to thank my teachers at Bonus Pastor for all the support they've given me over the years."

Head girl Tia Wheeler, who gained 4A*s, 6As and 1B. She said: "I'm so happy and overwhelmed. I can't stop smiling"

Mrs Ruth Holden, the principal, of the school in Winlaton Road in Bromley, said: "Once again Bonus Pastor has increased its grades and this shows that we are a top performing school.

"These amazing results reflect the very hard work of students and the dedication of staff to ensure every student achieves the very best they can. We are absolutely delighted."

The sky's the limit for high-flying Evelyn Grace Academy student Tiana, who is hoping her GCSEs will start her on a path to studying aeronautical engineering at university.

Tiana says: "When I was younger, I travelled around a lot with my family, so I've always been fascinated by planes and how they work. When I fly now, I love sitting near the wings to watch the hydraulic equipment.

"I'd love to study aeronautical engineering at Cambridge or Imperial – they're both amazing universities and they'll help me achieve the very best."

Tiana says that Evelyn Grace Academy, in Shakespeare Road, Brixton, has been integral in helping her achieve her goals:

"The teachers here absolutely want the best for each of us, they care and they work hard to make sure we realise our potential."

There was treble success for one family as triplets netted 31 A*/A grades at a school which saw its GCSE grades rise.



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Sisters Kate, Louisa and Sophie Hanton from Sydenham High School scooped a total of 26 A* and 5 As.

Kate and classmates Alex Lindsay, Maddy Telford and Betty Townley all achieved a clean sweep of 10 or more A*s.

The independent school in Westow Hill which is part of the Girls Day School Trust saw its pupil's grades rise this year with 86 per cent of exams awarded A* to B grades and 96 per cent were A* to C.

Headteacher Kathryn Pullen said: "I couldn't be more delighted that our girls have done so well, giving them a wonderful springboard to their A-levels.

"They've worked extremely hard with their teachers to reach these heights.

"I can't wait to see what successes lie ahead for them.

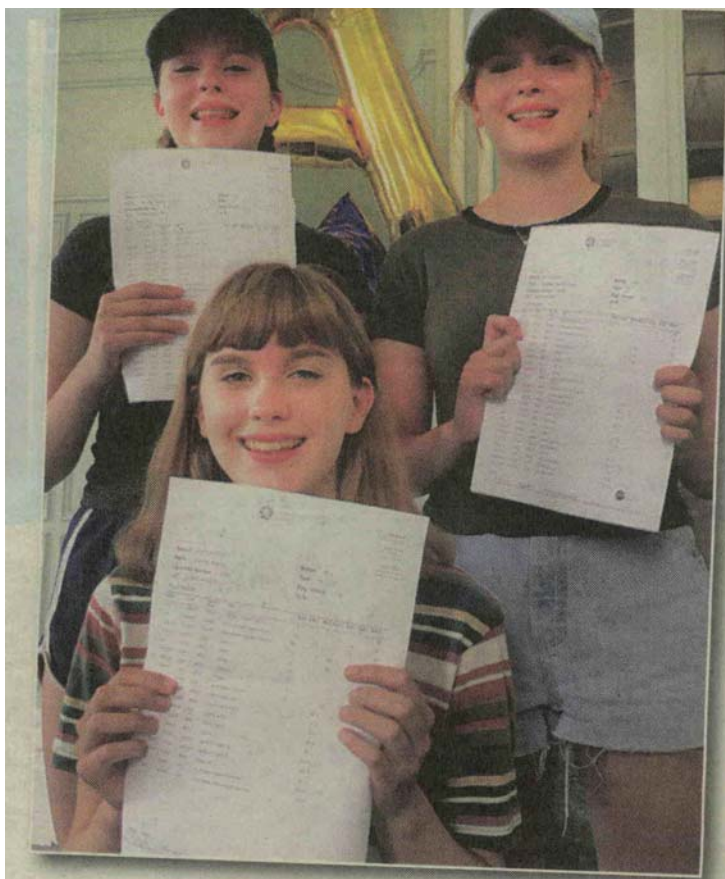
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Amy Ma and Amy Lee with Cllr Paul Maslin

Picture: Ian Enness

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