

Varndean IB Students Excel Once More

Varndean College's International Baccalaureate Diploma students have produced another set of outstanding results in one of the world's most demanding and prestigious pre-university qualifications.

Our 51 students achieved an average of 36 points – 6 points ahead of the world average and a point ahead of the average score of UK private schools. Universities usually regard 36 points equivalent to three A grades at A level.

Very special mention goes to Jacob Page (ex-Hove Park), who achieved the maximum score of 45 points – something only 157 candidates managed out of more than 70,000 students worldwide. Jacob is pictured here between Odhran O'Donoghue (Chailey) and Olivia Wynne Thomas (Brighton and Hove High).

Odhran, who scored 44 points, has a place to read Medicine at Wadham College Oxford. Olivia also scored 44 and will apply to study History and Politics at Cambridge. 'The IB has been intense, but it's also been rewarding, interesting and formative,' Jacob says. 'It's benefited all of us who took it and given us skills in a great range of disciplines.' Odhran really enjoyed 'the sense of shared community', but he also feels that 'we have been given the freedom to think' as well as being challenged. Olivia chose the IB because she was 'unsure of what kind of career I wanted to pursue and the IB offered the opportunity to study a wider range of subjects.' She is very pleased she chose it.

Verity Parkin (Varndean School), Natasha Qvortrup (Denmark) and Khem Rogaly (Cardinal Newman) scored 43 points. Verity and Khem are also likely to apply to Cambridge. Sixteen students overall scored 40 points or better, putting them in the top 4% of IB students in the world. Alys Daniels-Creasy (Dorothy Stringer, Sociology at Bristol) and Lola Dickinson (Cardinal Newman, applying for History at Oxford) achieved 42 points.

IB Co-ordinator Dr Sean McEvoy was full of praise for the students' achievements; 'It's been a great pleasure to work with these students. Their desire to learn and to develop as people is quite inspiring and it's wonderful to see them achieve so much.'