

Varndean College is delighted with the success of its students who have once again maintained an impressive A Level record. The overall pass rate was 98% with 49% achieving A*-B and 76% achieving A*-C. Two thirds of A level subjects had a 100% pass rate. The college also recorded a high AS pass rate of 87.2%

All Visual Arts courses (Fine Art, Graphic Design, 3D Design, Textiles and Photography) achieved 100% pass rates at both AS and A2, with over 90% of A level students achieving A* - C grades at A level. This follows on from the 'outstanding' grade for Visual Arts from Ofsted when the college was inspected in 2012. Visual Arts courses had 430 exam entries this year.

As well as achieving strong A level results, Varndean College Chemistry students this year reached the National Final of the Schools' Analyst Competition and achieved a fantastic third place, having won the South East region stage of the competition.

College Principal, Dr Philip Harland, said: "I would like to congratulate all of our students. They have been a delight to teach and thoroughly deserve their success. I would also like to thank my staff for their hard work in helping students to achieve these excellent results, particularly against a backdrop of reductions to funding. Behind these figures lie countless individual student success stories at all levels. Varndean College looks set to have outstanding value-added again this year. Record numbers of young people have applied to come to us this year, to share in this success and benefit from the additional classrooms and study space that we have built."

The A level success follows equally impressive International Baccalaureate results in July. Varndean College is the only college designated by the Government to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma in Brighton & Hove and is now in its seventh year of running this highly respected advanced level programme. Forty-six students sat the demanding international qualification which requires them to study English, Maths, Science and three other subjects alongside a range of other activities. The college received its highest marks ever, with an average score of over 36 points, equivalent to at least three A grades at A Level for university entry. There is a strong international focus on the IB Diploma and Felicia Fischer (ex-Oakmeeds School) won a scholarship to go on to study Digital Media at Vancouver Island University in Canada. Students are going on to many prestigious courses, including Haydn Francis (ex-Peacehaven School) who has a place to read Natural Sciences at Pembroke College Cambridge. Varndean College IB Co-ordinator Dr Sean McEvoy is delighted with these results: "we have some great teachers here and a really well-motivated and lively group of young people from local schools. They have done brilliantly. We are a state college that can match the achievements of independent schools in a tough international exam. We have over seventy applicants to start the IB in September, too."

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