

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 9.00AM, THURSDAY 17 AUGUST 2017**

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### **Varndean College Celebrates another Year of Exam Success**

Varndean College in Brighton is delighted with the success of its students who have once again maintained an impressive record of Advanced Level results.

- 1105 A Level exams were taken
- Overall pass rate at A level was 97.2% with 56% achieving A\*-B and 78% achieving A\*-C grades
- More than two thirds of all A level subjects had a 100% pass rate

Visual Arts courses (Art, Graphic Design, 3D Design, Textiles and Photography) were particularly impressive. Out of the 177 entries, all subjects achieved a 100% pass rate with 92% of students achieving A\*- C grades and 22.6% achieving the prestigious A\* grade.

Varndean College is also proud to offer a comprehensive programme of A Level equivalent vocational courses which many students take alongside traditional A Levels. These results are equally impressive.

Deputy Principal, Jill Arnold, said: "We are extremely proud of the excellent results achieved by our students, particularly in this year when many A Levels have changed and become even more challenging. Students and staff have worked extremely hard and thoroughly deserve this success. Once again Varndean College looks set to have outstanding value added, as students have achieved higher grades than their GCSE results originally predicted."

This A Level success follows on from Varndean's outstanding International Baccalaureate results back in July, when 47 IB Diploma students averaged 36 points, the equivalent to three A grades at A Level. Two students, Maria Gureeva and Naomi Crisp, achieved a staggering 44 points each, putting them in the top 1% of over 90,000 IB students worldwide.

Dr Sean McEvoy, who retired this summer after 30 years at the College and acted as IB Co-ordinator for the past ten of those, couldn't praise the students highly enough. "The International Baccalaureate is certainly a challenge but it produces confident and articulate young people who know a lot about the world around them and can really think for themselves. It's been a great pleasure working with them all."

Varndean College had a highly positive Ofsted visit in September 2016, which confirmed the College as 'good'. Ofsted inspectors were impressed with how Varndean College staff 'promote a culture of high expectation, which instils in students a strong work ethic and a good level of confidence in their abilities'. They also said: 'Teaching, learning and assessment are of a consistently high standard and students enjoy the vibrant and challenging lessons they attend'.

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