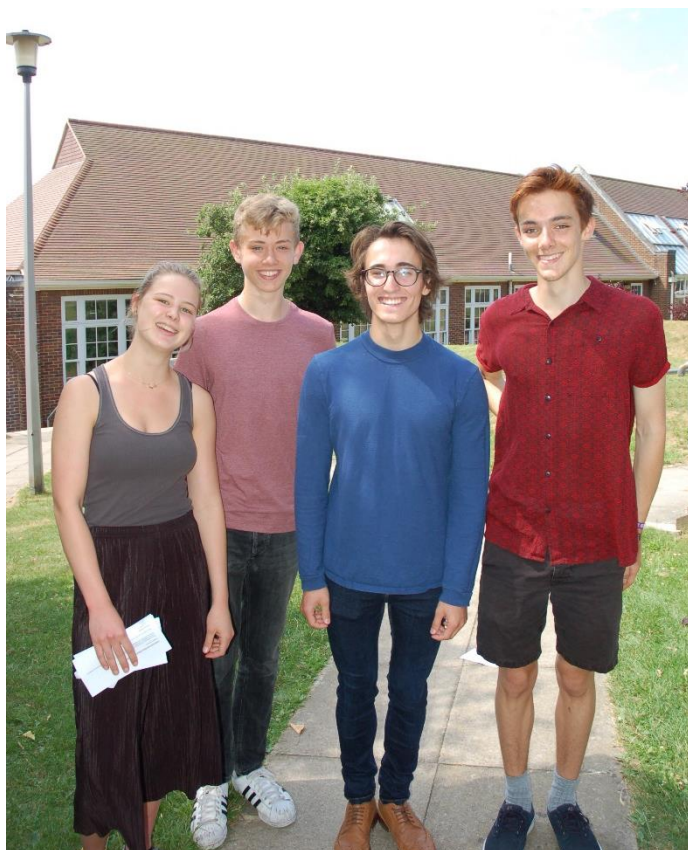# Varndean College IB Students Shine Once Again

Maria Gureeva was one of the stars of Varndean College's outstanding International Baccalaureate Diploma results this summer. Maria, who lives in Burgess Hill and went to Downlands School, studied her native Russian language on the way to achieving almost full marks in this demanding international qualification. Her score of 44 points has put her in the top 1% of over 90,000 IB students worldwide. Maria, who is going to study Economics at Warwick University, shared top spot with ex-Steyning Grammar pupil Naomi Crisp from Shoreham. Naomi will be applying to study Linguistics at Oxford.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Varndean College offering the IB Diploma, which requires students to study six subjects at advanced level as well as completing projects and community work.

Other high achievers with 42 and 43 points are also pictured (left to right): Maya Gavin (previously from the Lebanon), Sam Corbett (Dorothy Stringer), Sacha Grover (Lewes Priory) and Sam Hukin (also Dorothy Stringer). The first three are Oxbridge-bound and Sam Hukin will read Maths at Bristol.

Also celebrating are Alice O'Kane from Varndean School, who is going to study Politics at Birmingham, and Mieke Liebenberg from Warden Park in Cuckfield, who is taking advantage of the IB's International Profile to study Digital Media at Erasmus University in Rotterdam.

Varndean's forty-seven IB Diploma students averaged 36 points, which universities regard as equivalent to three A grades at A Level.

IB Co-ordinator Dr Sean McEvoy, who is stepping down from the role after ten years, cannot 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."

11 July 2017

For further details, please contact Jackie Francis, Marketing Manager at jaf@varndean.ac.uk, Tel 01273 546611