



The Talentum Learning Trust

Westwood
College

**Westwood College, Westwood Park, Leek,
Staffordshire ST13 8NP**

telephone **01538 370930**
email **www.office@ttl.org.uk**
website **http://www.ttl.org.uk**

CEO & Executive Headteacher: Mr A Shaw
Headteacher: Mr M Taylor

Our Ref: TYL/jc

September 2019

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome to the start of a new academic year at Westwood College. For those students returning to the College after the summer break, welcome back. For those students joining us for the first time, I hope you have enjoyed your first experiences of the College and are excited about the challenges and opportunities to come.

Westwood has a long-standing reputation for producing successful students who achieve well and this summer saw one of the best set of results our students have ever produced. Against a background of more demanding specifications in all subjects, the percentage of students achieving a grade 4 (equivalent to a C grade or better) in each of GCSE Maths and GCSE English was 81%, whilst 74% achieved a grade 4 in both, an improvement of over 10% on last year putting us well above the national average. 46% of students achieved grade 5 (a 'strong pass') and above, again well in excess of results seen nationally. Performance by students studying the new Level 2 Vocational courses was outstanding with over 91% achieving Level 2 passes and nearly 62% at either Merit or Distinction. This level of performance has significantly improved the options our students have for life post-16.

From this year onwards schools will be compared using a different range of measures to those used previously and the English Baccalaureate has become more significant when discussing school performance. This is a measure of the proportion of students who successfully achieve GCSE grade 4 or above in English, Maths, Science, a foreign language and either History or Geography. This year 41% of Westwood students achieved this particular combination of qualifications compared to a national figure last year lower than 30%.

A number of individual performances have been truly outstanding with over 35 students achieving at least 5 grade 7s (in line with an A grade) or their equivalent.

Students, families and staff can all take pride in these results. These achievements are the results of high quality teaching and learning, the high expectations we have of young people and the tremendous support of their parents. The majority of students will now go on to further success in the Westwood Sixth Form, where again 2019 saw some superb results. With over 40% of all Level 3 examination entries returning a grade of A*, A or B (69% A*-C), Westwood students performed at levels that allow them access to all the top Universities. Performance was strong across the board with over half of all entries in Art, Design, Drama, English Literature, French and German achieving these top grades.

We take pride in being an inclusive College and our students can celebrate results that go beyond the purely academic. The results for our Level 3 Vocational courses were also strong with a pass rate of 100% and an average grade per entry above a Merit.



Overall, 16 students gained at least grades ABB or equivalent in their best three subjects. Performance at this level has enabled students to progress to an impressive range of Higher Education opportunities including: History and Politics (Oxford, maintaining the tradition of students from Westwood College securing Oxbridge places), Environmental Science (Bangor), Business Management (Lincoln), Geography (Lancaster), Chemistry (Loughborough), Modern Foreign Languages (Liverpool), History (Keele), Fashion (Lincoln), Marine Biology (Liverpool), Art (Edinburgh), Policing and Criminal Investigation (Staffs), Ancient History (Nottingham), Business (Monmouth USA), Sport and Exercise Science (Nottingham Trent), Education Studies (Staffs) and Sociology (Manchester).

This September sees the introduction of a new uniform at Westwood College for students in Years 9 and 10. The views of students, staff and parents were key in selecting the final design which has been well received by all. We hope that you will support us in striving to maintain high standards of presentation among all students, in line with College's values of Respect, Resilience, Ambition and Pride. We believe in a strong College community where all members respect each other and their environment, are resilient in their approach to life and work, are ambitious in their aims and who take pride in themselves, their appearance, their work, and in the College and its wider environment. As the new Headteacher for Westwood College, I am proud and excited to be able to help the College continue to grow and to move towards greater successes in the future.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students, parents, staff and governors the very best for this academic year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Taylor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr M Taylor
Headteacher