

Bridge AP Academy celebrates student achievements

Students at Bridge Academy in Hammersmith and Fulham are celebrating today after receiving their GCSE results, enabling them to embark on the next chapter of their education.

The many achievements mark the end of what has been another unusual year in light of COVID-19 and the cancellation of examinations.

Despite this, the academy has seen continued success with some of the standout individual achievements including:

- Jade Ayers who successfully achieved a grade 4 in Maths, grade 5 in English Literature, Double Science grade 5-4, English Language grade 6 and PE grade 4. Alongside these academic grades, Jade engaged with a weeklong residential at The Lyric Theatre which was funded by the Y11 transition allocation. Through this Jade developed a love of theatre which led to her being offered a six-week placement on their theatre course during June and July. During this time, Jade developed confidence, social skills and a whole new social circle.

Jade has since decided that she would like to pursue a career in acting and is undertaking A Levels to support this at a sixth form college in September. Jade has offers from three sixth form colleges; Saint Charles, William Morris and Richmond. The academy is particularly proud of Jade's achievements as she is a full-time carer for her mother and three young siblings. She has benefitted the small and nurturing environment at Bridge which provided her with the opportunity to not only achieve academic qualifications to progress to the next stage of her education but also to explore new extra-curricular activities and aspirations for her future.

- Annakela Gourlay successfully achieved Maths grade 5, English Literature grade 6, Double Science grade 5-5 and English Language grade 4, as well as grade 2 in PE. Annakela had attended three secondary schools prior to joining Bridge Academy. Annakela experienced challenges regulating her behaviour in and out of class which meant that until September 2020, Annakela was not meeting her academic potential. Staff built positive relationships with this learner and encouraged her to recognise her strengths. During the Autumn term Annakela even started working independently at home to complete work.

During lockdown Annakela engaged every day and in all lessons and this helped to develop her confidence and skills further. Despite mental health challenges and an initial lack of self-confidence in her abilities, through her time at the academy, Annakela has been able to achieve the grades needed for her to go onto to college to study accounting. Annakela has always wanted to be an accountant and is over the moon to be able to go on to the next stage towards her ambition. Annakela has offers for Sixth Form from Kingston, West Thames and Stanmore.

- Tony Goral successfully achieved a grade 4 in Maths, a grade 6 in English Literature, a grade 5-4 in Double Science, a grade 4 in English Language and a grade 6 in PE. Tony came to Bridge Academy in December this academic year through fair access panel as a result of poor attendance in his mainstream school. Tony attended over 95% of the time at Bridge both in person and remotely during lockdown. Tony responded to the small class sizes, the nurturing environment of our school community and the extra-curricular offer. Tony engaged with horse riding, rowing, go karting and weekly gym visits throughout the year. Tony flourished in the school environment and has gone on to achieve far more than he was predicted within the mainstream environment. Tony has a place to study Business at West London College.

In response to coronavirus, Bridge Academy changed its approach to educating the young people at our school. Staff have worked hard as a team and in partnership with professionals and volunteers to evolve an offer which ensured that our learners received a 20-hour academic online offer per week during lockdowns, welfare calls, safeguarding check-ins and mentoring sessions daily. The academy is proud of the fact that since the first lockdown it has been open every day to support the vulnerable young people from our borough.

Meanwhile, families were supported to access foodbanks by our staff, if more than three hampers were requested. Through contributing to keeping learners and their families safe and cared for during lockdowns, the academy continued to build upon its supportive approach to education and academic progress and this has resulted in greater trust between us and the children that we teach. To this end, post lockdown learners in Year 11 chose to attend school more regularly than previously and therefore made significant progress towards their GCSE's.

Keziah Raphael, Principal at Bridge AP Academy, said:

"We have absolutely loved every second of teaching our learners and feel enormously proud of everything that they have achieved. Despite the challenges that COVID presented, our learners have shown resilience, motivation and commitment throughout their year 11. I would like to thank all of our students, their families, our staff and the wider school community for their ongoing support and we look forward to seeing our students progress on to the next stage of their education and fulfil their goals."

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government decided that young people's grades would be determined by teachers, based on work students produced throughout their course. These grades were then moderated and assessed by external exam boards which awarded the final grades.

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