

Celebrating the best ever results

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A RECORD number of Greater Manchester children got good grades in their GCSE exams – today we honour that achievement by printing the most comprehensive list of results in the region.

After the results were revealed to students last Thursday, education officials in Stockport, Oldham, Salford, Wigan and Manchester said the results had been the best yet.

In Stockport, more than 58 per cent of students taking exams got A*-C in at least five subjects. This was the best result ever for schools in the town and a rise of nearly four per cent points on last year.

In Tameside, 50 per cent of student achieved the standard,

which slightly below last year's record results but education officials said there had been improvements in the English and maths.

There were pronounced improvements in Salford. Two years ago only 38 per cent of students got five good grades now 52 per cent are reaching the standard and several city schools have virtually doubled their pass rates.

Schools in Warrington continued to show one the strongest performances in the region. More than 65 per cent of 2,500 pupils taking their GCSEs in the area achieved good results in five or more subjects.

Trafford secondaries continued to produce some of the strongest marks in the country, with 71 per cent of pupils achieved five or more good

grades, an increase on last year's figure.

In addition, many independent schools also said it was their best year ever.

Many of the results were slightly below the national average, which saw just over 62 per cent of students get five good grades.

Nationally nearly a fifth of all results were A or better. Boys' results improved faster than girls' although the girls were still better.

There were slight improvements in the pass rate for English and maths but concerns were expressed over a significant fall in the number of students choosing to study a modern language.

The way that results are measured nationally is set to change, reflecting fears that children are leaving school without basic skills such as letter-writing or mental arithmetic.

Currently, schools use the benchmark of how well their students perform in their top five subjects. But in future, league tables will have to show how students perform in a student's best three subjects and their English and maths exams.

The change aims to encourage



MAGIC NUMBERS William Shi hopes to use his head for numbers in the world of big business. The Manchester Academy student scored six A* and two A grades in his exams and also took an extra course in business studies equivalent to four GCSEs. Classmates Yahui Zhang and Danielle Walters also achieved strong results. The cover picture shows Manchester Grammar School pupils Richard Hague, Will Christiansen, Greg Storrar, Akash Shah and Tim Poole who all achieved 10 A*s.

schools to focus on improving results in these core subjects.

Employers have warned that those failing to meet the benchmark standard of at least five A*-C passes would struggle to

find good jobs. Some business interviewed by the Learning and Skills Council said they would immediately bin an application from school leavers who did not reach get at least five good

grades. But a report this week stressed most employers value so-called "soft skills" such as enthusiasm, communication, and teamwork skills over exam results.

GUIDE TO THE RESULTS

This guide lists GCSE results from schools and colleges in the Greater Manchester area and beyond. Institutions were invited to provide results for the Manchester Evening News and those that responded are listed in this guide according to their

local authority region.

The results are in a format showing each candidate's name followed by the number of A*-G grade passes and then the number of A*-C grade passes in brackets, for example J Smith 8(5).