

Staff, students and parents can look back at 2016/17 with a great deal of pride. Tonight's awards evening is a celebration of the many achievements our students have made over the last twelve months. The students receiving awards tonight are superb ambassadors for our academy and are deservedly being recognised for their effort, enthusiasm and commitment.

This August, students in Year 13 and Year 11 celebrated superb exam results. Year 13 achieved our best ever A level results with an A level pass rate of 99.7%. 56% of grades were at A*-B with a record 25 A* grades. Our vocational results were again our best ever with an astonishing 93% of grades being D*-M. There was much to celebrate on A level results day with virtually all students being successful in reaching their first choice destination.

GCSE results day the following week was another very positive day for our students. Our Year 11 students had the additional pressure of sitting the newly reformed GCSEs in English and mathematics which were graded 9-1 rather than A*-G. They responded incredibly well with 78% of our students achieving the new threshold of grade 4 and above in both mathematics and English. Like the A* at A level, grade 9 is very hard to achieve and is awarded to around 3% of students in the country. We are delighted that in this first year, there were 19 grade 9s awarded to students from the academy.

At Macmillan Academy we have prided ourselves on providing a whole education. While we seek to provide a learning culture that allows students to achieve these excellent results, we try to ensure they can develop personal qualities through access to a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. Our programme of enrichments and educational visits is very strong and there have been many highlights over the last twelve months.

Our arts curriculum is extensive and continues to be a thriving area of the academy. The Christmas and spring music concerts and the dance shows are performed to packed and appreciative audiences. One of the highlights of the academy calendar is our annual production. This year's performance of Hairspray was exceptional. A show with a hundred students and thirty staff involved is a genuine academy event and shows just what our students can achieve.

We have more students than ever before involved in the long established Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme with our highest number of students achieving bronze, silver and gold awards. This scheme is a fantastic example of students developing the types of skills and attributes which will make them highly employable in the future.

As a further addition to our outdoor learning programme, we took a group of Year 10 girls to Chamonix in the French Alps on an expedition. This programme was created and led by the explorer Masha Gordon and was incredibly challenging with the girls achieving far more than they thought they possibly could.

Our students have continued to raise funds for worthy charitable causes at local, national and international level. Their work has benefited the Salvation Army, CoCo, The Royal British Legion and Yorkshire Aid – a charity set up to support refugees who have recently settled in the North of England. In this important aspect of education we hope our students are developing an understanding and appreciation of those less fortunate than themselves.

The academy enjoyed another successful year in sport. Boys were Middlesbrough and Cleveland champions in U13 athletics. In football, Year 12 boys were Middlesbrough

champions, with U16 boys achieving the Middlesbrough Schools League and Cup Double and reaching the last sixteen of a national cup.

Girls sport continues to thrive at the academy with another highly rewarding season across a range of sports. In cricket, U13 girls finished Yorkshire County runners-up having won Middlesbrough and North Yorkshire events. In football U13 girls were Middlesbrough champions with U14 and U16 girls winning county competitions, while in hockey U14 girls were county champions with U12 girls being county runners-up.

In looking back over a very rewarding year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the commitment and dedication shown by staff, students and parents. I would also like to thank the academy's governors who give freely of their time and play an instrumental role in the academy's continued development. I hope you all enjoy this evening.

Mr P Latham
September 2017