SAFA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Year 11 GCSE and BTEC Results: Celebrating Our Through-School Community



We are once again overwhelmed with pride as we celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Year 11 GCSE and BTEC students. Every student has worked exceptionally hard, and today we are delighted to share this special moment with them and their Safa families.
Safa Community School is proud to mark another record-breaking year of academic achievement across both GCSE and BTEC qualifications. Our largest-ever cohort completed 1,181 GCSE entries, achieving results that rank among the strongest in the school's history, including:

- **A 14% increase in Grade 9s**
- **An 11% increase in Grades 8–9**
- **A 9% increase in Grades 7–9**

Our BTEC students have also continued to perform exceptionally well, further strengthening Safa's reputation for excellence across both academic and vocational pathways.
These exceptional outcomes reflect the determination and resilience of our students, together with the tireless dedication of our teachers, staff and families, who have supported them throughout their journey.

These achievements are particularly significant given the unprecedented circumstances surrounding this year's examination series. Against a backdrop of regional conflict and disruption, nearly 7,000 pieces of supporting evidence were carefully prepared and submitted to ensure that every student's achievement was appropriately represented. This considerable undertaking reflects the extraordinary commitment, professionalism and attention to detail demonstrated by our staff throughout this challenging period.

As our community continues to grow, our commitment to academic excellence, inclusive opportunity and the success of every individual student remains unwavering.
We warmly congratulate every student and extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff and supportive families for the invaluable role they have played in this exceptional achievement.

Voices of Success

Principal



Mrs. Leanne Fridd, Principal

“This year’s GCSE and BTEC results tell a much wider story than qualifications and grades alone. They reflect the journey of our school, the strength of our community and the remarkable progress we have made together.

At least half of this Year 11 cohort completed their early years or primary education with us. Some started as FS1 pupils when the school first opened in 2014. To see these “homegrown” students now completing their GCSE and BTEC qualifications with such strong results is a particularly proud milestone.

Their journey has not always been easy. They completed their primary education during the global pandemic and faced further disruption when conflict affected their studies during Term 3. Throughout these challenges, they demonstrated tremendous resilience, determination and maturity. Their achievements have prepared them well for the next stage of their education as they enter Sixth Form.

Their success also reflects the continuity and commitment that characterise our school. Low staff turnover has enabled students to build lasting relationships with teachers who know them well and consistently go above and beyond to support them. Our dedicated staff have helped young people grow not only academically, but also through drama, music, sport and the many wider opportunities available across the school.

A very special thank you must go to Hannah Lunt, Head of Key Stage 4, whose leadership, commitment and care have been central to the success of this cohort. Hannah has been ably supported by Jade Scott, Head of Year 11 and Rachael O’Neill, Deputy, Deputy Head of Year 11, who has guided and encouraged the students throughout this important stage of their journey.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Will Fraser, our Examinations Coordinator, for his meticulous work in ensuring that the examination, assessment and results processes ran smoothly.

These results represent an especially significant milestone for Emmet Glackin, Head of Secondary, as the first set of GCSE and BTEC results achieved under his leadership. Emmet has been supported by Mike Davies, Vice Principal, and his Deputy Heads, Mat Ashton, Adi Deacon and Oliver Lukeman. Their collective leadership and commitment have been instrumental in supporting our students and staff.

We are equally grateful to our parents, particularly those who joined the school community in its earliest years and have supported its growth ever since. Their trust and partnership have been invaluable.
As the school has grown, so too have our ambitions and results. Year after year, and with increasingly larger cohorts, our students continue to reach higher standards across both academic and vocational pathways. Our Owners and Governors share our immense pride in all that has been achieved and remain committed to the school’s continued growth and development.

Thank you to every student, parent and member of staff who has contributed to this journey. We look forward to watching this exceptional group continue to flourish during their final two years with us before stepping confidently into the wider world.”








Voices of Success

Vice Principal

Mr. Michael Davies



“This is an exceptionally talented year group, with students achieving at a high level across a wide range of academic, sporting, creative, and entrepreneurial disciplines. Alongside their academic studies, students have competed internationally in sports, performed in music and the arts, developed business interests, and taken on leadership roles within the school and the wider community.

Today is an important day for our 131 GCSE students and their families. I have had the privilege of watching this year's group develop, and what stands out to me is the breadth of their talents and achievements. They are much more than their examination results.

The cohort includes a particularly strong group of elite swimmers representing Cyprus, Egypt, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, France, India, and the UAE. Students have competed at the European Junior Championships in Germany and the Mediterranean Games, while others have been working towards Olympic qualifying times.

Balancing international-level sport with the demands of GCSE study requires significant commitment, organisation and resilience. Students have travelled extensively, trained for many hours and competed at the highest levels while continuing to meet the demands of their academic programmes. The students' achievements have also created significant opportunities beyond SCS, with some of the school's swimmers securing full scholarships to Millfield and NCAA Division I universities in the United States.

However, the success of the cohort extends well beyond elite sport.

Academic results matter. They provide important opportunities and help students progress towards the universities, careers, and pathways they aspire to. However, we also want our students to develop interests, skills, and experiences beyond the classroom.

This year group includes musicians, entrepreneurs, performers, athletes, and emerging leaders. For me, that is an important part of what we are trying to achieve at SCS. We want students to leave us with strong academic qualifications, a clear understanding of their strengths, and the confidence to pursue their ambitions.

Behind the students' achievements has been a significant programme of work from teachers and school leaders. More than 7,000 pieces of evidence relating to student achievement, progress and wider experiences have been analysed, submitted and uploaded.

The scale of that work demonstrates the level of attention our staff give to our students. Our teachers know their students well. They know who is training before school, who is competing internationally, who is performing, who is developing a business, and who may need additional support.

That understanding is important because it enables us to support students as individuals rather than simply focusing on examination data. It also means that the wider achievements of our students are properly recognised.

The strength of the SCS community is reflected in the school's high retention rate, with around 70% of students having a sibling who attends the school. Many of today's Year 11 students will continue their education at SCS, joining the Sixth Form and progressing onto A Level, BTEC, and internship pathways.

The fact that so many families choose to continue their SCS journey with us is something we value highly. For many of these students, today is not the end of their time at SCS but the beginning of their Sixth Form experience.”

Voices of Success

Vice Principal

Mr. Michael Davies goes on to say...

“The school has spent the summer preparing its Sixth Form facilities for continued growth. A new bespoke KS5 floor is being opened, providing additional science and mathematics classrooms to support the popularity of STEM subjects and the expansion of the Sixth Form.

The development also includes a redesigned Sixth Form common room and study areas, additional strength and conditioning facilities, and improved catering provision for older students.

The latest addition is likely to be particularly popular with students: personalised Sixth Form student car parking spaces.

We have invested significantly in our Sixth Form environment to provide students with the facilities, space and independence they need as they move towards university, employment and adult life. The new academic and sporting facilities are particularly important as our Sixth Form continues to grow.

The personalised parking spaces may prove to be the most popular addition of all, but I suspect the new science classrooms will ultimately have the greater long-term impact.”

Headteacher of Secondary



Mr. Emmet Glackin

“Another Record-Breaking Results Day Reinforces Safa Community School’s Position Among Dubai’s Top Academic Schools.

Following our record-breaking A-Level and BTEC results last week, I am immensely proud that our Year 11 students have delivered another exceptional set of GCSE and BTEC outcomes here at Safa Community School.

Taken together, these results represent an important milestone for our school. Outstanding outcomes across GCSE, BTEC and A-Level show the strength and consistency of our academic provision and firmly establish Safa Community School as one of Dubai’s leading schools academically.

These results have been achieved through hard work, resilience and a positive culture of high expectations. Our students have approached their studies with determination and maturity, supported by teachers who know them exceptionally well and who continually challenge them to achieve their very best.

What makes these achievements particularly significant is the resilience this cohort demonstrated during a year that brought considerable uncertainty across the region. Despite disruption at a crucial stage of their education, our students remained focused and continued to work incredibly hard.

To follow last week’s record-breaking A-Level and BTEC outcomes with another exceptional set of GCSE and BTEC results is a very proud moment for our entire community. These results are not isolated successes. Safa Community School continues to firmly establish itself among Dubai’s top-performing academic schools, while retaining the positive, supportive culture that makes our community so special.

Behind every result is an enormous amount of work from our staff. I would particularly like to recognise Hannah Lunt, Assistant Headteacher, who has led our Key Stage 4 team, alongside Adrianne Deacon, Deputy Headteacher Academic, for their leadership, high expectations and relentless focus on student outcomes.

I would also like to recognise Jade Scott, Head of Year 11, and Rachael O’Neil, Deputy Head of Year 11, whose pastoral leadership and knowledge of the cohort have ensured that these outcomes have been possible.”

Voices of Success

Headteacher of Secondary

Mr. Emmet Glackin goes on to say...

"Their collective work, alongside that of our Heads of Department, teachers and wider Secondary team, demonstrates what can be achieved when strong academic leadership, excellent teaching and pastoral care work together around each individual student.

Most importantly, today belongs to our students. They should be enormously proud not only of the grades they have achieved, but of the resilience, character and work ethic behind them.

To our Year 11 students: congratulations. You have added another outstanding chapter to what has already been a remarkable year for Safa Community School, and we look forward with great excitement to seeing what you achieve next."



Assistant Headteacher Key Stage 4

Mrs. Hannah Lunt

"We are exceptionally proud of all our students for their outstanding GCSE and BTEC results. These achievements reflect two years of hard work, determination and discipline, as well as the support of their teachers and families. Success is being celebrated across the full range of subjects and qualifications.

Among the many exceptional individual performances, Rayan Salman and Ziad Qadri each achieved an incredible 11 grade 9s. Aurelia Capocelli achieved 12 grade 9s, while Adam Kresta secured 10 grade 9s, one grade 8 and an A* in his Higher Project Qualification.

Further outstanding results were achieved by Alia Saraya, with 10 grade 9s and one grade 8, and by Martina Grazzini and Mahad Usman, who each attained nine grade 9s and one grade 8. Rahma Yusuf attained nine grade 9's and two grade 8's.

Students studying BTEC pathways also achieved remarkable success, with a number securing Distinction* grades in BTEC Engineering and BTEC Creative Media, as well as Double Distinction* grades in the BTEC Sport qualification.

These results are a testament to the commitment, resilience and ambition demonstrated by our students throughout their Key Stage 4 journey. We are immensely proud of everything they have achieved and look forward to seeing them continue to flourish as they embark upon the next stage of their education."

Deputy Head Teacher, Academic Standards and Curriculum



Mrs. Adrianne Deacon

"Today is a moment of celebration for our GCSE and BTEC students as they receive results that recognise their hard work, determination and resilience throughout an unprecedented academic year.

Despite the disruption caused by the cancellation of external examinations across the region, our students remained focused and committed to their studies. Their results reflect not only their academic ability, but also the maturity and perseverance they have demonstrated throughout their courses. We are incredibly proud of every student and grateful to our staff and families who have supported them along the way."

Voices of Success

Deputy Head Teacher, Academic Standards and Curriculum

Mrs. Adrianne Deacon goes on to say...

"Underpinning these achievements was a rigorous and carefully quality-assured evidence process. Mock examinations, formal internal assessments, and coursework provided a comprehensive picture of student performance over time. Heads of Department and senior leaders scrutinised and moderated this evidence to ensure that it was valid, representative and consistently applied, while maintaining close liaison with examination boards throughout.

Results Day also represents the beginning of an exciting new chapter. GCSE and BTEC outcomes will help students confirm their Sixth Form pathways and select subjects that reflect their strengths, interests and future aspirations. Our Sixth Form Team will work closely with students and families to provide personalised guidance, ensuring that every student progresses to a pathway that is appropriately ambitious and gives them the greatest opportunity to thrive.

These results also open the door to the next stage of their academic journey. We look forward to supporting each student as they confirm ambitious Sixth Form pathways that reflect their strengths, passions and aspirations for the future.

We warmly congratulate all our GCSE and BTEC students and look forward to welcoming them into the next stage of their education at Safa Community School."

Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral – Student Wellbeing and the Student Experience



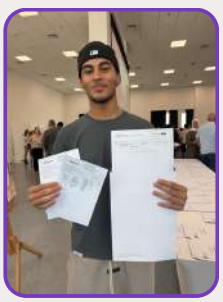
Mr. Mathew Ashton

"Our students achieve because they are part of an environment that expects a great deal from them, but also provides the support they need to meet those expectations. We know our students as individuals – their strengths, their challenges and when they might need someone alongside them – and that is a hugely important part of the education we provide.

For our Year 11 students, the journey to these results has demanded resilience, determination and maturity, particularly through the uncertainty and disruption they experienced this year. Throughout that period, our pastoral teams worked closely with students and families, providing consistency and support while ensuring that ambition and expectations remained high.

These results are something our students should be incredibly proud of. They reflect not only what they have achieved academically, but the confident, resilient and ambitious young people they have become along the way."








Voices of Success

Deputy Headteacher, Assessment, Teaching & Learning – Assessment Rigour and Internal Data Processes



Mr. Oliver Lukeman

"Our students achieve because they are part of an environment that expects a great deal from them, but also provides the support they need to meet those expectations. We know our students as individuals – their strengths, their challenges and when they might need someone alongside them – and that is a hugely important part of the education we provide.

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Summary of Results

Summary of ALL Grades

GCSE Results

- 35% of all grades received were 9
- 55% of all grades received were 9-8
- 72% of all grades received were 9-7
- 85% of all grades received were 9-6
- 93% of all grades received were 9-5.
- 97% Overall Pass Rate.

BTEC Level 2 Results

- 73% of all grades received were Distinction*
- 91% of all grades received were Distinction* - Distinction
- 100% of all grades received were Distinction* - Merit
- 100% of all grades received were Distinction* - Pass



Summary of Results

GCSE Subject Performance

- 83% of all Mathematics grades achieved were 9-6
- 76% of all Business Studies grades achieved were 9-6
- 100% of all History grades achieved were 9-6
- 93% of all Economics grades achieved were 9-6
- 100 % of all Further Mathematics grades achieved were 9-6
- 86% of all English Literature grades achieved were 9-6
- 84% of all English Language grades achieved were 9-6
- 75% of all Art and Design grades achieved were 9-6
- 100% of Arabic grades achieved were 9-8.
- 100% of Photography grades achieved were 9 - 6.
- 86% of all Combined Science grades achieved were 9-6
- 100% of all Biology grades achieved were 9-6
- 100% of all Chemistry grades achieved were 9-6
- 97% of all Physics grades achieved were 9-6
- 88% of all French grades achieved were 9-7.
- 85% of all Spanish grades achieved were 9 - 6
- 100% of all German grades achieved were 9 - 6.
- 100% of all Italian grades achieved were 9.
- 93% of all Geography grades achieved were 9-6
- 89% of all Physical Education grades achieved were 9-6
- 88% of all Food and Nutrition grades achieved were 9 - 6
- 73% of all Psychology grades achieved were 9 - 6.
- 86% of all Drama grades achieved were 9 - 6.
- 60% of all Music grades achieved were 9 - 6.
- 86% of all Computer Science grades achieved were 9 - 6.
- 80% of ICT grades achieved were 9 - 6.

BTEC Performance

- 100% of all Level 2 subjects were awarded Distinction* - Pass
- 73% of Level 2 Engineering were awarded Distinction* - Distinction
- 100% of Level 2 Business were awarded Distinction*- Pass
- 100% of Level 2 Creative Media were awarded Distinction* - Distinction
- 100% of Level 2 Sport were awarded Distinction* - Distinction

Congratulations