



Bedstone College GCSE results proves that non-selective does not mean non-academic

When the GCSE results of 2015 were published last August I was delighted with how well our students had done. Many people think that Independent schools rely on talented international students to boost school performance. Bedstone College remains very much a traditional British boarding and day school and only 3 of our year 11 cohort in 2015 were not born in the UK. Our top 10 performers were all from the UK, with Emily Kindermann who secured 7A* and 4 A grades leading a group of excellent performances.

I was very proud to see in the Department of Education performance tables, which were published on January 21st, that Bedstone was ranked **2nd** of all the schools, both maintained and independent, in Shropshire. If one includes all schools in Herefordshire as well as Shropshire, Bedstone is ranked **4th out of 78** schools. What is possibly more impressive is that at Bedstone we believe in teaching the 'traditional' subjects. These are subjects that we believe better prepare students for the challenges that they will face later in life. We teach triple science to most of our students. Not only do the students pass, but they regularly achieve the top grades. Over the last four years 34% of all grades in our triple science subjects have been at A*/A. We also value the fact that the vast majority of our students take at least one modern foreign language. The Department of Education is keen for schools to focus on these more traditional subjects as they are highly valued by universities and employers alike. The English Baccalaureate consists of GCSEs in some of the most challenging GCSE subjects; English, Mathematics, History or Geography, one Modern Language and Science. **Bedstone College was the top ranked school in Shropshire and Herefordshire on this measure.**

I jealously guard our tradition of being completely non-selective and am incredibly proud of the achievements of our GCSE students last year. Non-selective does not mean non-academic; we focus on building confidence in every one of our students and encouraging them to be ambitious in everything that they do. They rarely let themselves down!

More information on the English Baccalaureate can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-baccalaureate-ebacc/english-baccalaureate-ebacc>

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