

# Y13 Partnership Evening

**September 2023**

# No Illusions

**Education-wise we are in a time of shifting sands - what was isn't what is now, and what might be is far from clear.**

**We spoke to Year 13 about this landscape earlier in the term -- and we decided it was necessary to talk to you.**

**There is nothing to fear but getting closer to clarity gives your children / our students an advantage.**

A photograph of a sign mounted on a wall. The sign has a light-colored background and dark text. The text is arranged in four lines, with horizontal lines separating each line. The text reads: "PLEASURE MAY COME FROM ILLUSION BUT HAPPINESS CAN COME ONLY OF REALITY". There are also two empty horizontal lines below the text.

**PLEASURE MAY COME  
FROM ILLUSION  
BUT HAPPINESS CAN  
COME ONLY OF REALITY**

# Things to Talk About...

1. Getting the Grades...
2. Right University, Right Course
3. The UCAS Process
4. Getting Predicted Grades
5. Making Your Final University Choices
6. Student Finance
7. Applying for Apprenticeships
8. The Year Ahead
9. School Response



# Starting Points

**Your children did brilliantly as a Year group in Summer 2022.**

**They were the best performing Year 11 in Staffordshire - the school got the same in 2019.**

**Your children's efforts have put them in a better starting point than most.**



# Starting Points

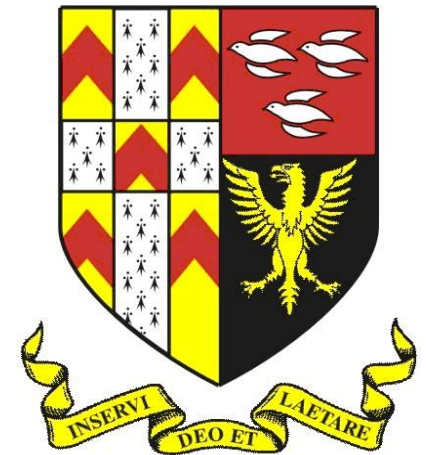
Equally, our school's Sixth Form results have stood up to the GCSE standard since well before the pandemic.

Progress scores and average grades are high...

**Summer 2023 = Average Grade B / Dist\***

All bar 3 students got their first choice destination in the Summer - and the other 3 found a very positive way forward.

**There is never certainty but there is high probability.**



# National Landscape



**Björk** on bereavement, empty-nest syndrome and brutal techno  
Interview Film & Music G2

**Twilight zone** Kristen Stewart's best films - ranked! Film & Music G2

Friday 19 August 2022 £2.50 From £1.85 for subscribers

## The Guardian

News provider of the year

### Water bosses' bonuses rose 20% amid pollution failings

Helena Horton Environment reporter

The annual bonuses paid to water company executives rose by 20% in 2021, despite most of the firms failing to meet average pollution targets. Figures show that on average executives received £100,000 in one-off payments on top of their salaries, during a period in which foul water was pumped into England's rivers and swimming spots for 2.7m hours. The analysis of water companies' annual reports found that their bonus pool for executives now stands at more than £600,000 per company on average. In total the 22 water bosses paid themselves £24.8m, including £1.7m in bonuses, benefits and incentives in 2021-22.

Sewage releases have continued to blight coastlines. Data suggests recent discharges have taken place in Cornwall, Cumbria, Devon, Essex, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Northumbria and Sussex, with people told to stay out of the sea at some beaches this week. These include some sites in Devon, where swimming is not advised because of the human waste pumped into the water.

**It's time huge profits were diverted to properly managing water and sewage**

Hugo Topham *Barriers Against Sewage*

### Anger at record profits for P&O owner

Months after sacking 800 workers with no notice, DP World bosses recorded £600m profits. The TUC called them 'corporate gangsters' News, page 29 →

### Model speaks out on botched treatment

Linda Evangelista reveals how she was persuaded to have a cosmetic procedure that she says has left her 'permanently deformed' News, page 13 →

### Top A-level grades fall as regional gap widens

Sally Weale *Pamela Duncan Rachel Hall*

The number of top A-level grades has fallen sharply this year after a return to examinations, with widening of large regional variations and a 'stark' divide between state and private schools. Grades awarded in England, Wales and Northern Ireland yesterday were down by 8.4 percentage points compared with last year's record results, while A's alone decreased by 4.5 points, in line with government plans to bring marks gradually back to pre-pandemic levels. University admissions have fallen, after one of the most competitive admissions cycles in recent years, though they are still the second highest on record, according to the university admissions service Ucas. But the number of students without a

▲ *Well-earned results at Whalley Range high school in Manchester but regional gaps have widened* *news, page 29*

▲ *University places rose by a third, while a further 24,000 are estimated to have missed out on their first choice. Overall, yesterday's results were higher across the UK than pre-pandemic levels, but the attainment gap between the north and south of England widened.* *news, page 13*



**Daily Mail**

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## 43,000 SCRAMBLING FOR PLACE AT UNIVERSITY

Highest number for decade face Clearing frenzy amid post-Covid grades crackdown and huge rise in foreign student numbers!

the *lean.com*



**THE TIMES**

Return of Line of Duty? Will the Doctor on TV's biggest challenge?

## Overseas hiring spree to rescue care homes

Doors of health care open to overseas workers

A-level appeals boom as top grades fall

National Landscape

# Changing Grades

## COVID Times (Summer 2020 & 2021)

The exam grades students got were much higher than normal.

This was fair - but it also meant that students did better than they would have. **With teacher grades they got the benefit of the doubt.**

## Summer 2022 (Your Child's GCSEs)

When your child did their GCSEs the grades dropped - but the **Exam Boards were generous.**

The impact of COVID meant this was **a fair decision** - and they still very much got what they deserved.

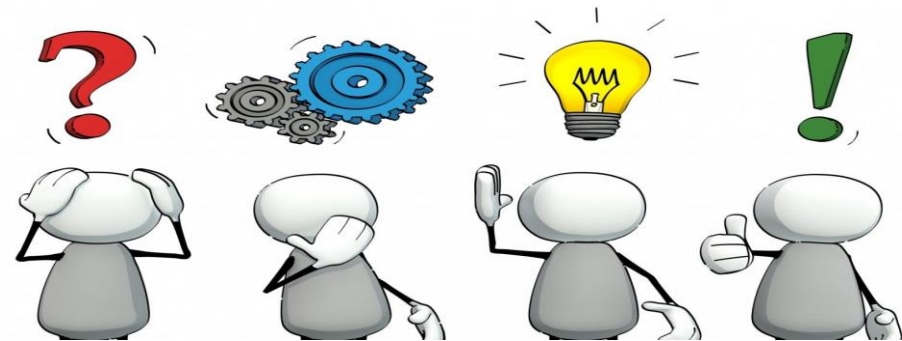
Even so, your child got **a degree of inflation in their GCSE grades.**

## Summer 2023 (Looking to 2024):

**The grades were brought down** closer to Summer 2019. They didn't drop, they plummeted.

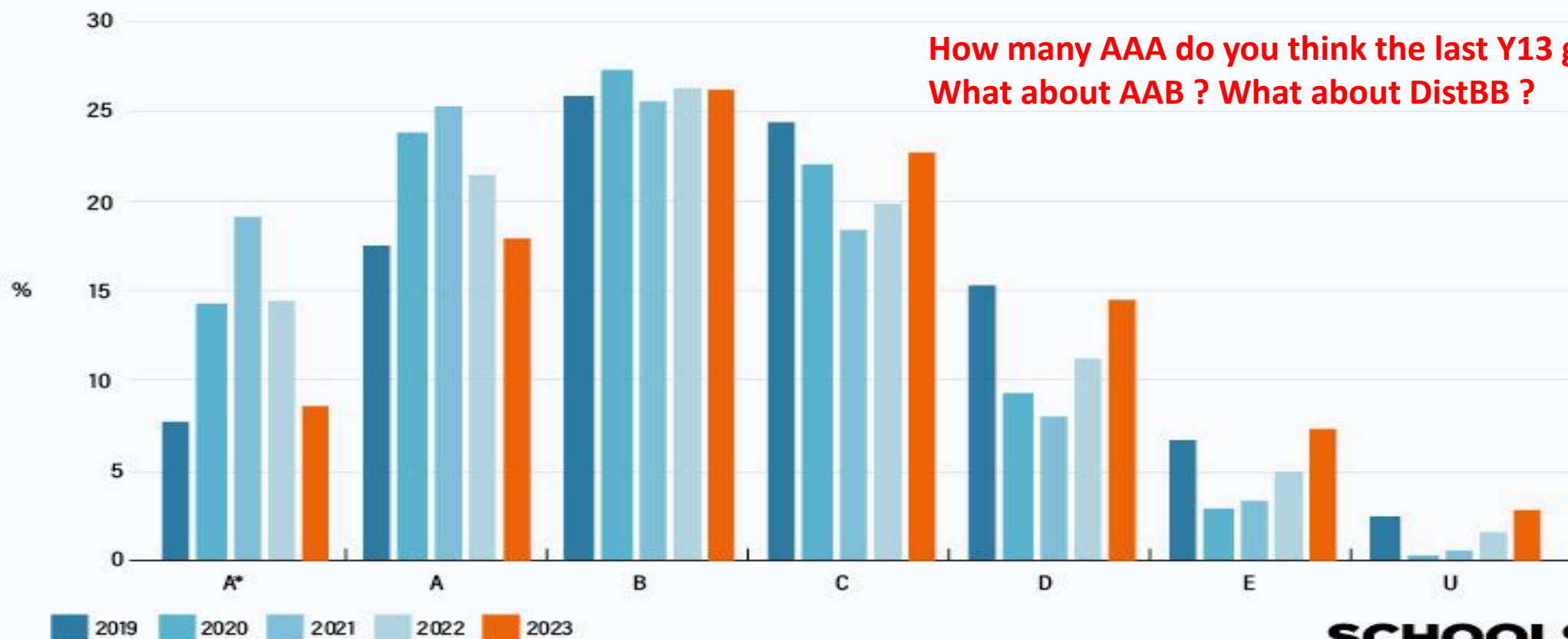
This means this Summer saw **a lot less A\* / A** grades.

They did not reach 2019 levels though - that will be **Summer 2024.**



# Changes to Grades

## The grade distribution of A-level grades in England since 2019



How many AAA do you think the last Y13 got ?  
What about AAB ? What about DistBB ?

Source: JCQ data on A-levels in England

**SCHOOLS**  
**WEEK**



# Looking at the Data

The Summer 2023 results were closer to 2019 (so normal times - not COVID times).

**In Summer 2022 - 36.4% of grades were A/A\*.**

**In Summer 2023 - 26.5% of grades were A/A\*.**

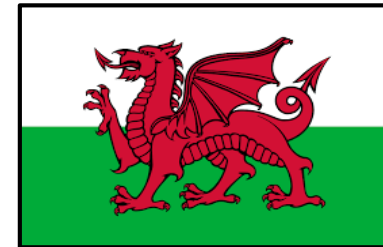
In Summer 2019 it was 25.2%.

In Summer 2024 it will likely be at the 2019 level.

**In Summer 2023 - 52.7% of grades were B/A\*.**

**In Summer 2019 it was 51.1%.**

In Summer 2024 it will likely be at the 2019 level.



# Student Case Study 1 - Realistic Expectations...

## KS2 SATs

KS2 English = 97

KS2 Maths = 108

Average 102.5

A GCSE Grade 4/5 student on entry.

## GCSEs (Summer 2022)

2 x 7s... 3 x 6s... 2 x 5s... D\*/D\*/D

Made great progress... Brilliant since Year 6 !

Sixth Form Target Grades are based on GCSE Results...

Course	KS2 Target	GCSE Target (Summer 2022)	Reality Target ?
A-Level	E/D	A	
A-Level	E/D	B	
L3 Voc	Pass	Dist*	

This student was miles better than their SATs results - they were always going to do better than 4/5 here.

But A/B/Dist\* is very high... Few students get this... And it is based on 'inflated Y11 results.

**What would you judge to be realistic targets ?**

# Target Grades & Reality

So... your child's target grades are based on their Summer 2022 GCSE results.

This results were inflated - so with how things have moved on - the targets will be as well.

This is a big deal when it comes to expectations and applying for universities and apprenticeships.

**It is easy to get carried away and make some bad decisions with applications at the best of times - and this is not the best of times.**



# Student Case Study 2 - Looking at University...

There are **more people going to university** so there is more pressure on places.

Some of your child's **competition for September 2024** having got their grades in 2020, 2021 and 2022.



The **universities have a lot of applicants** - they'll not likely give much leeway on grades.



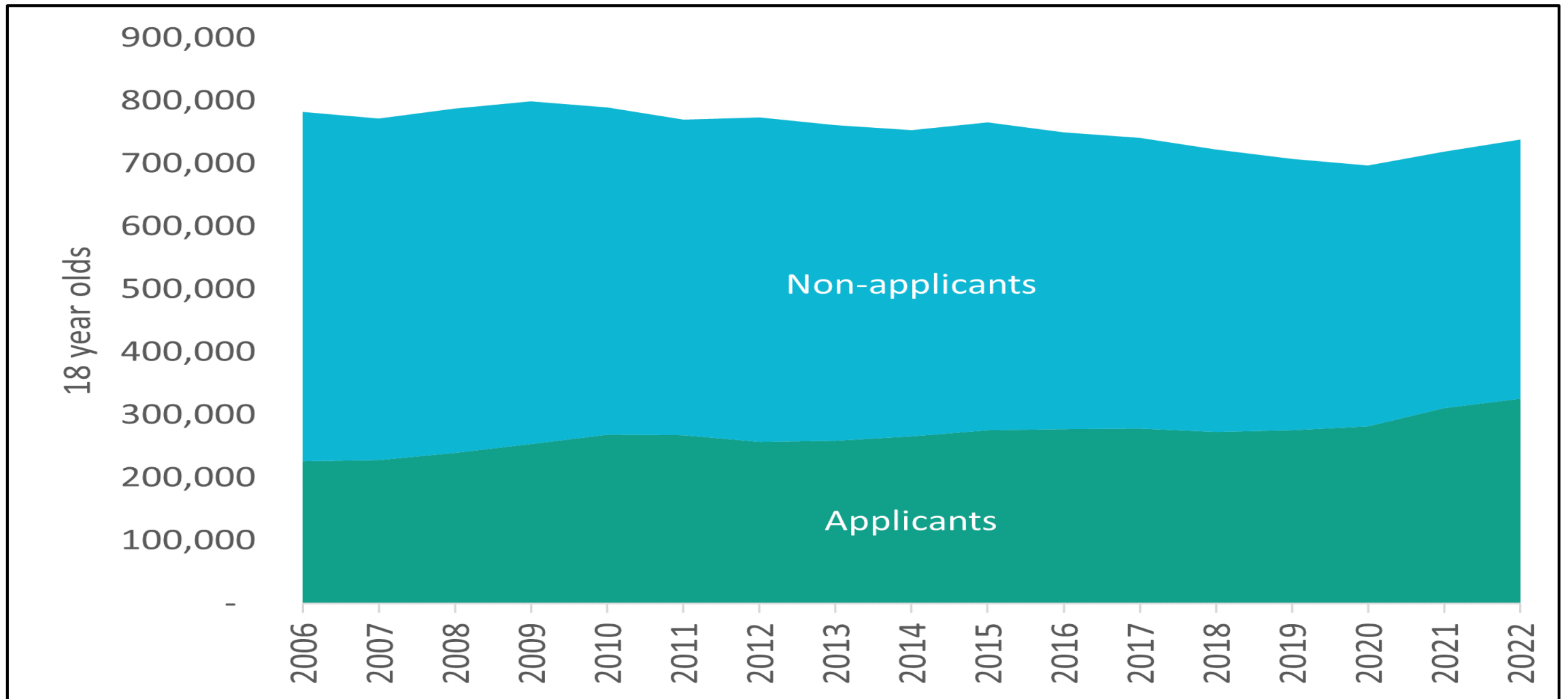
If your child wants to get their **first choice university**... They need to **get the grade requirements**.

**But they need to pitch their application at the right level... They cannot get carried away on target grades...**



**Apprenticeships are single applications - rather than multiple (UCAS) - and usually do not have set A-Level grade requirements.**

# Student Case Study 2 - Looking at University...



# Student Case Study 2 - Looking at University...

**John Smith (Mr Inflated Target)**

**Biology - Target B / Current C**

**Maths - Target A / Current B**

**English - Target A / Current B**

**Wants to study Engineering.**

**Been to 5 Open Days.**

**School agreed to predict AAA to help applications - if John works hard it is not totally impossible.**

**John applies to five universities:**

**Durham - AAA (inc A in Maths)**

**Bristol - AAA**

**Manchester - AAA**

**Leeds - AAA**

**Liverpool - AAA**

**Why is John making a mistake ?**

# Student Case Study 2

## John Smith

**Biology - Target B / Current C**

**Maths - Target A / Current B**

**English - Target A / Current B**

**Wants to study Engineering.**

**Been to 5 Open Days.**

**School agreed to predict AAA to help applications - if John works hard he could well get it.**

**John applies to five universities:**

**Durham - AAA (inc A in Maths)**

**Bristol - AAA**

**Manchester - AAA**

**Sheffield - ABB**

**Newcastle - BBB**

**Why is John making a better selection ?**

**Why is John still on slightly shaky ground ?**

# Student Case Study 2 - Looking at University...

## John Smith

Biology - Target B / Current C

Maths - Target A / Current B

English - Target A / Current B

Wants to study Engineering.

School agreed to predict AAA to help applications - if John works hard he could well get it.

John applies to five universities - but then chooses his 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice:

Durham - AAA (inc A in Maths) First

Bristol - AAA

Manchester - AAA (inc Year Abroad) Insurance

Sheffield - ABB

Newcastle - BBB

Why is John making a mistake ?



# Student Case Study 2 - Looking at University...

## John Smith

Biology - Target B / Current C

Maths - Target A / Current B

English - Target A / Current B

Wants to study Engineering.

School agreed to predict AAA to help applications - if John works hard he could well get it.

John applies to five universities - but then chooses his 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choice:

Durham - AAA (inc A in Maths) - First

Bristol - AAA

Manchester - AAA

Sheffield - ABB

Newcastle - BBB - Insurance

**Why is John making a better selection ?**

**Why is this still a problem ?**

# Student Case Study 2 - Looking at University...

John Smith works hard through Year 13...

Biology - Target B / Gets A

Maths - Target A / Get B

English - Target A / Gets B

He has got some excellent grades...

He **misses his first choice** - he calls to ask Durham but they still say 'No'.

He gets his place at Newcastle.

**Does John take the Newcastle place ?**

**Go through clearing ?**

**Take a gap year ?**

John applies to five universities:

Durham - AAA (inc A in Maths) - First

Bristol - AAA

Manchester - AAA

Sheffield - ABB

Newcastle - BBB - Insurance

**At Newcastle he was late in so struggles with accommodation - he gets a room late on in a shared house with 3 x Year 3 undergraduates.**

**But then again, Newcastle is a great city, top university, and he can go and make friends via his course....**

**BOTTOM LINE - He should have got his AAA... Was he unrealistic from the start ?**

# Student Case Study 3 - The Competition...

**A child I know well went to state school for his GCSEs - he got a mix of 5s, 6s, and 7s.**

**He went to a private school for Sixth Form and got AAC.**

**The C was one mark off a B.**

**He got his first choice - Sheffield to study Economics.**



# Student Case Study 3 - The Competition...

School day runs till 4.10pm

4.10-5.30pm = Compulsory Clubs

5.30-6.30pm = Compulsory Study

Boarder:

6.30-7.30 - Dinner

7.30-8.30 - Compulsory Study

We finish at 3.10pm - private study available till 4.00/4.30pm.

In Year 13 this means:

30 weeks left x 5 days per week = 150 days

150 days x 3 hrs study = 450hrs extra study

If not boarding = 300hrs extra

If boarding = 450hrs extra

This is the competition... This is selective...

**What is your child doing ?**

**Is the playing field level ?**

**How can you help secure the grades your child wants ?**

**THIS IS THEIR JOB... BUT THEY'LL NEED SUPPORT TO WORK ON IT...**

# The Friary School - Summer 2023 Results

The Summer 2023 Sixth Form results were very strong.

**Summer 2023 = 84 Y13 Students**

**3 x A-Level Students:**

AAA+ = 2 (A\*A\*A\*A/ A\*AAB)

AAB = 4 +1 (A\*ACa) = 5

ABB = 6 + 1 (AAC) = 7

**2+ Vocational:**

D\*D\*D

D\*D\*C

**A-Level & Vocational Students:**

Equivalent AAA+ = 1 (AADist\*)

Equivalent AAB = 4 (1 x ABDist x 3 x ABDist\*)

ABB = 2

**Where do you sit in Year 13 ?**

**Are you Top 10 ? Top 20 ? Top 42 ?**

**TOTAL:**

**21/84 (25%) got ABB or higher (or equivalent).**

No A-Level student currently has a target of lower than a B.

**It is impossible to think in the new landscape that every one of those students will get that B+...**

# To Finalise...

This is not going to be as 'easy' as Summer 2020, 2021, 2022 even 2023.

And we wanted to give you the full current picture on what lies ahead...

**This is not a problem** - the students in 2019 did well and universities will flex around it.

It is just a case of shaping reality and working hard to get it.

If your child does this then they should be fine.



HELEN

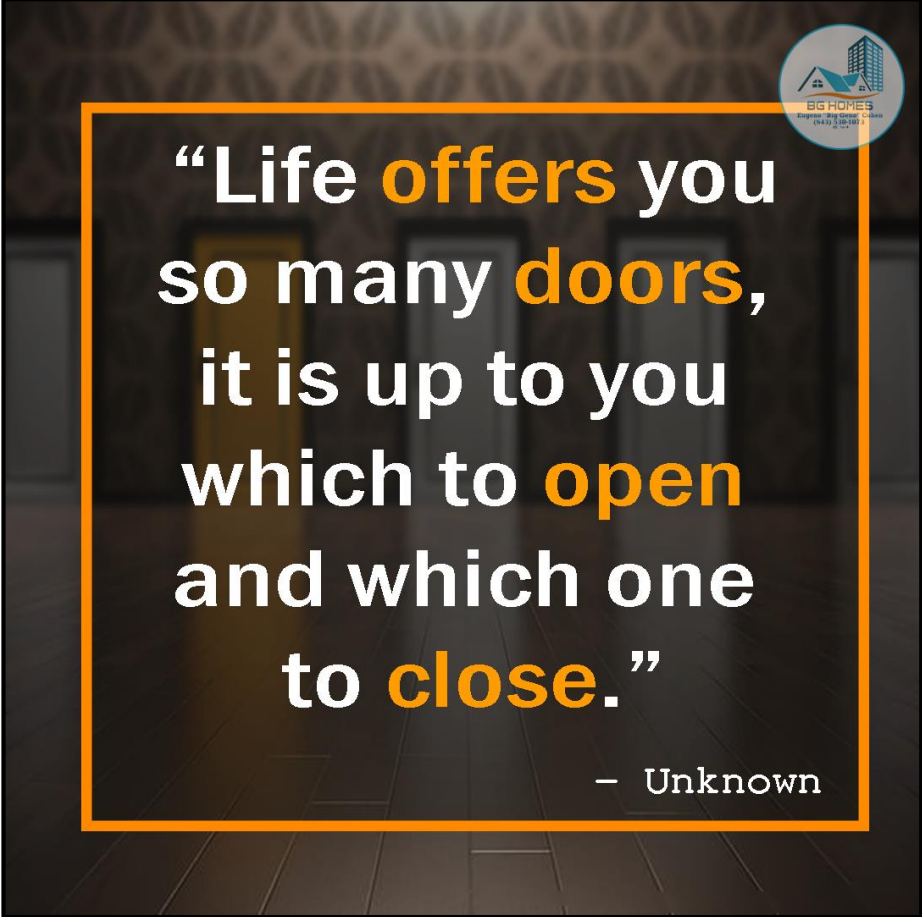
# To Finish...

Your child can do this... All options ==- and targets - are achievable...

It just requires **100% effort now...** Do not let them make the mistake of thinking it does not.

Your child can select some great doors for life - university, apprenticeship, etc.

But we need to make sure they get to decide which doors close, not someone else...



“Life **offers** you so many **doors**, it is up to you which to **open** and which one to **close.**”

– Unknown