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# Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

## Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Archesgob McGrath



### **Congratulations to the class of 2020.**

For the class of 2020, picking up their A level results with strict social distancing measures in place was a very different experience to the hustle and bustle of their GCSE results day. It is a great regret for us that this wonderful group of students have not had the opportunity to take their final examinations and that we have not been able to celebrate the end of their school life in the usual way.

We are exceptionally proud of their academic achievements but also of the strength of character and resilience year 13 have shown in these extraordinary circumstances. The class of 2020 have made an outstanding contribution to the wider life of the school and have been a source of inspiration to younger students. School may have ended for them in March, but they have continued to study to ensure that they are ready for university life and many have used the time in lockdown to work and volunteer to support their local communities.

They have been one of the most ambitious and dedicated cohorts the school has ever had. They have been an aspirational year group with many applying successfully to the most competitive courses in the most highly regarded universities. Assistant Headteacher, Matthew Dunn, who has overseen the sixth form summed it up, "There have been no limits on their aspirations and they have been an absolute pleasure to work with. They have exhibited so many fantastic qualities and I hope they thrive in whatever they do. Pupils are choosing exciting and varied university pathways and I was delighted with the ambition this cohort showed in their applications. We wish them every success."

Mrs Smith, Assistant Head, noted how "well they have coped this year through the difficult times; they were a joy to teach and will be very missed." Miss Clegg, Deputy Headteacher, said "These pupils have been an exemplary cohort and have been a credit to themselves. Throughout their time here they have been true role models both academically and in their contribution to the school community."

### **There is a great deal to celebrate!**

Many learners decided to take up their places this September although more pupils than usual are set to defer starting their studies until next year hoping to make the most of gap years. I applaud the flexible approach some universities have taken with offers as this has alleviated the anxiety of students who have not been able to control their results.

Despite the many successes, there are students who will be disappointed that some of their Centre Assessed Grades have been lowered. The school will be working with students to manage their appeals in the coming weeks. We understand that this is an unprecedented situation and that exam boards have to standardise but there must be an acknowledgement in the appeals process that we are dealing with individuals not statistics. I have every confidence that the Education Minister will ensure that individual students will not miss out because of the pandemic.

The class of 2020 have been an exceptional year group throughout their school career. Despite the uncertainties ahead, I know that wonderful group of students will go on to achieve great things. I feel privileged to be their Headteacher and look forward to hearing news of their many successes.

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Angela Keller

Headteacher

*"This year has been different to any other. As tough as it has been the staff and students have always helped us through. It has been a privilege to be co-Head Girl." Emma Attwood (University of Bristol, Management with Innovation)*

*"This year has been really challenging. However, I am so incredibly grateful so for the seven years here. I can't thank my teachers enough for continued support." Lucy Rathkey. (University of Oxford, Music)*

*"I want to thank all my teachers who have supported me throughout my time in school. I can't put into words how grateful I am for their time and effort. The Science prep room and cakes will be missed." Ffion Higginson (University of Exeter, Medicine)*



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