



WESTHOLME
UNRIVALLED HOLISTIC EXCELLENCE

Centenary celebrations continue with GCSE success at Westholme



“With another national deflation in top GCSE grades this year, it is remarkable that 76% of our students achieved at least a grade 7 (A) or above; this impressive accomplishment spans right across the whole year group and every subject. Congratulations to all!”

DR ROBSON, PRINCIPAL

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GCSE RESULTS SPECIAL 2023

Remarkable results from Centenary Year 11s

Today is a great day for Westholme as we celebrate our GCSE academic success. I would like to congratulate every single one of our Centenary Year 11s on their superb achievements, fantastic work ethic and diligent hard work!

With another national deflation in top GCSE grades this year, it is remarkable that 76% of our students achieved at least a grade 7 (A) or above; this accomplishment spans right across the whole year group and every subject. Well done to all! I would also like to pay tribute to our wonderful staff at Westholme that work tirelessly to ensure our students become the best they can be and exceed their potential, not just academically, but in every way.

This year, many of our students have qualified for academic scholarships to transition into our INSPIRED Sixth Form; we are excited they will experience our nationally recognised A Level provision during their final two years at Westholme. We have articulated many times just how much we believe in providing a holistic educational experience, and with a 100% success rate in coveted Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship offers this year, our unique approach is vital preparation for the 21st century workplace.

I'm sure you would like to join me in congratulating some exceptional GCSE academic results from the following students: Eve Hames-Clarke 8(9s) and 3(8s); Muhammad Choksi 5(9s) and 4(8s); Evie Mitchell 5(9s)



and 4(8s); Thomas Flintham 4(9s) and 4(8s); Katy Ninan 3(9s) and 4(8s); Ibrahim Ismail 3(9s) and 4(8s) and Poppy Barnett 3(9s) and 3(8s).

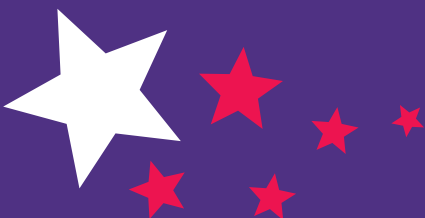
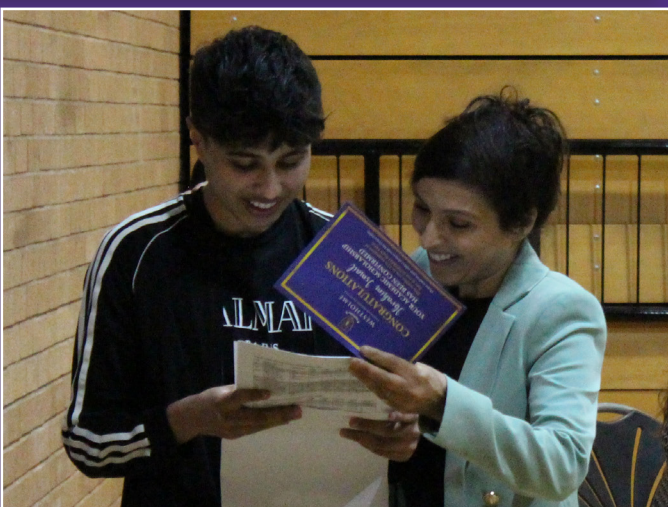
For those embarking on alternative courses rather than A Levels and departing for pastures new today, we wish you the very best of luck. You will always remain very much part of the Westholme family and we look forward to hearing about and sharing in your future successes through our alumni links and networks. In the words of Mark Twain, 'give every day the chance to be the most beautiful day of your life!'

With my very best wishes,

Dr Robson
Principal

“Give every day the chance to be the most beautiful day of your life.” – Mark Twain

Westholme Family Celebrations



Muhammad drills home the benefits of working hard

Congratulations to Muhammad Choksi, who achieved five 9s, four 8s and two 7s in his GCSEs.

He said his highlight at the school was receiving his results today, saying: "I was anxious when I opened my results, but I'm really happy with them. They are about what I expected."

He explained his gratitude for his teachers, and the support they provided for him throughout his academic endeavours adding: "The teachers have given us so much attention and helped us when we needed it. It's their support that have resulted in the grades I've received today."

His future plans include studies in Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Further Maths at our INSPIRED Sixth Form, which will help prepare him for a career in dentistry, following in the footsteps of his mum.

Muhammad is an active member of our sports department, committing his time as a member of our football and cricket teams at Westholme.



Eve's exciting experiences inspire her next step

Eve Hames-Clarke is delighted after collecting her GCSE results, achieving an incredible eight 9s in Biology, Chemistry, English Language, English Literature, EPR, Latin, Maths and Physics as well as three 8s in Computing, Further Maths and Spanish.

"I'm thrilled with my results, and really excited to be continuing with my studies at INSPIRED Sixth Form" Eve said. She will be studying EPR, English Literature, Latin, Maths and Further Maths.

Eve threw herself in to all of the opportunities on offer, across a broad spectrum of interests. She said: "During my time at Westholme, I have been a part of the drama, the hockey, the Greek, the cricket, the creative writing, the maths enrichment club, the choir and LAMDA Shakespeare and Musical Theatre. These have helped me to build my skills in a variety of areas and allowed me to build relationships with lots of different people."

Having achieved a second-degree black belt, the Junior Science Award, LAMDA Shakespeare Levels 2 and 3, and multiple Bebras awards during her time at

Westholme, Eve showed that you can enjoy and achieve in a range of activities, alongside academic studies.

Citing the World Challenge trip to Vietnam and Cambodia as a key moment during her time at school, Eve said: "It was very exciting, and I made lots of memories there."

Alongside her studies and many extracurricular activities, Eve was also happy to have built good relationships with her friends and teachers over the years to enjoy her achievements with and in turn, support her peers.

As far as future career aspirations go, Eve is hoping to: "Find work in an area that combines computer science and ethics", and will no doubt enjoy an array of hobbies alongside her work life.



Double delight for twins Thomas and Amelie

Congratulations to Thomas Flintham, who achieved an incredible four 9s – three of which were in the sciences – four 8s, two 7s and one 6. He is carrying on at our INSPIRED Sixth Form, taking Maths, Computer Science and Music Technology.

His determination and aspirations were reflected through his modest response when asked about his results, saying: "I'm quite happy with the results. I did better than my mocks, but I wonder whether I could have pushed myself more."

Thomas aspires to be a software engineer in cyber security, explaining: "The career pays well, it's vocational in that you help to protect people's information, and it's a new fast-growing industry which is exciting."

Thomas also expressed his gratitude for his teachers and reflected positively about the Westholme community, putting it simply in his own words: "The people at the school, and the teachers. They're all great."



Well done to Amelie, a regular star on our Croston Theatre stage, for her amazing GCSE results. Amelie was especially pleased with her English Literature results, getting a 9 after working so hard. She said: "I'm proud of my results. It was my dream to get a 9 in English – and I did!"

Amelie also got two 8s in Drama and English Language. Amelie said: "My key highlights about studying at Westholme were the atmosphere and my teachers. The friendly, welcoming atmosphere of the school is what makes learning much easier, and something that made me more confident throughout Year 7 to 11."

During her time at Westholme, Amelie enjoyed drama – taking the lead role of Serena in Fame. She added: "These experiences really boosted my confidence along with music performances at the autumn and spring concerts, as well as singing with the school band. These experiences are what make Westholme such a unique school." She aspires to take the skills she has learned at Westholme into a career in the entertainment industry following her A-Levels.

We look forward to seeing Amelie in our upcoming Westholme Productions as she continues her studies at our INSPIRED Sixth Form, studying Criminology, Theatre Studies, and English Literature.

OPEN EVENING

THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023 | 6PM – 9PM

SCAN TO REGISTER ONLINE

Or email: Registrar@WestholmeSchool.com | Tel: 01254 506070



Kenya awaits budding wildlife conservationist Poppy

Well done to Poppy, who obtained a fantastic collection of three 9s, three 8s, two 7s and two 6s in her GCSEs.

Poppy has secured her place at our INSPIRED Sixth Form to study Biology, Geography, and EPR (Ethics, Philosophy & Religion), subjects which will prepare her for her dream career in wildlife conservation.

She hopes to return to East Africa to make a positive contribution to wildlife conservation in Kenya. She said: "I enjoy making a difference and doing something meaningful, so I have always wanted to go into wildlife conservation. I think Kenya is the best place for it – I loved living there."

It's no surprise that the highlight of Poppy's time at Westholme so far came in the form of the trips she enjoyed, with a trip to Vietnam and Cambodia – an expedition consisting of trekking, volunteering, and exploring - ranking at the top.

She added: "There are so many trips and opportunities afforded to us – there's so much to enjoy. We spent two weeks in Vietnam and Cambodia, which was definitely a highlight for me."

When not travelling the world, Poppy enjoys getting involved in sports such as swimming. She has



completed numerous outdoor activities, such as Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, and our Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge weekend whilst at Seniors.

Poppy attributed her success to the support and freedom given to her by staff who have given her the confidence to chase her dreams.

Grace sets the bar high

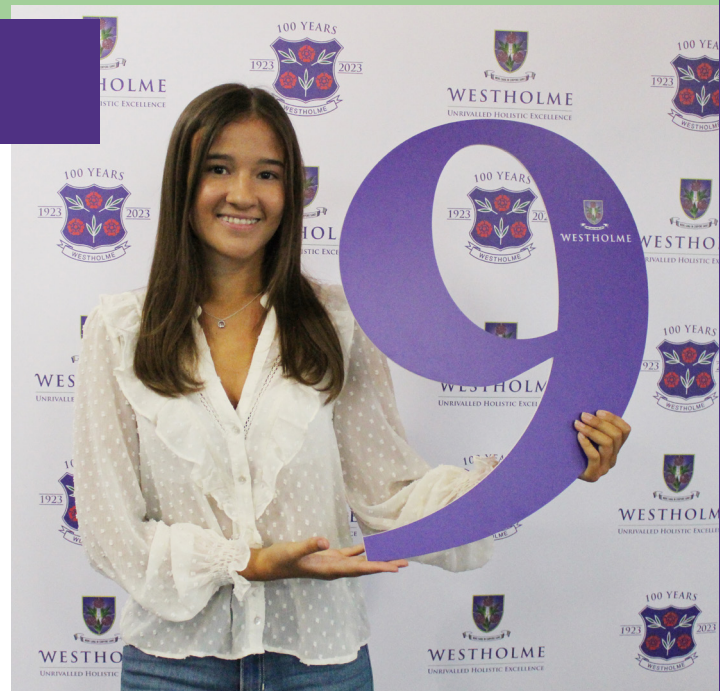
Grace Berry is on track to pursue a career in Law after achieving three 9s in Drama, English Language, and English Literature. Talented Grace also achieved three 7s, two 6s and one 5.

Grace is looking forward to studying Geography, English Language, and Drama at INSPIRED Sixth Form with a passion of pursuing Law.

Grace celebrated her results with her parents, who both looked on with pride as she opened the envelope to her future.

"I'm a bit shocked!" Grace said as she read out her results. "I'm really happy. I really appreciate all the help I got from the teachers in all of my subjects. The English Department in particular was very supportive."

Grace is excited to be taking part in Westholme's drama production next year. She has also enjoyed the opportunity to take part in many extra-curricular activities including hockey and netball.



Westholme Family Celebrations



Ibrahim's results take centre stage

Ibrahim Ismail was thrilled with his GCSE results – he achieved three 9s, four 8s and three 7s. He is now looking forward to continuing his studies at our INSPIRED Sixth Form in Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Further Maths.

During his time at Westholme, it hasn't just been calculations and chemistry that caught Ibrahim's eye. He said: "Westholme has given me the opportunity to explore other experiences and some exciting interests including the opportunity to act on TV in a BBC drama alongside actor Christopher Eccleston and at The Lowry theatre in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang with Jason Manford. This experience was hard work but taught me confidence, self-discipline and commitment. I've been inspired to work hard academically while enjoying my passion for drama, too.

"During my time at Westholme, I've gained the confidence to audition and enjoy many other acting roles over the years and through different experiences, I've grown my interpersonal skills."

Ibrahim made full use of the many extra-curricular activities on offer, enjoying everything from martial arts to drama and successfully completing his LAMDA Speech and Drama (Grade 7) and Acting (Grade 6).

He said: "I was involved in The Sound of Music production last year which allowed me to polish up on my acting skills and taught me endurance and confidence. I also had great pleasure of taking part in

"Westholme has always inspired me to work hard academically and enjoy drama at the same time."



Maths challenges at the University of Lancaster which allowed me to solve puzzles, which I enjoy. I also regularly took part in many local Speech Festivals from a young age for which I was awarded many prizes.

"My overall highlights though are the school trips I have attended – my favourite was the choir tour in Year 7 to the New York Choir.

"Westholme has always inspired me to work hard academically and enjoy drama at the same time."

This summer, Ibrahim auditioned for The National Youth Theatre when it came to Westholme before we broke up for Summer and managed to secure a place on their two-week Summer course. He said: "This was an amazing experience which allowed me to enjoy myself and learn new skills but at the same time make some incredible friends and I'm now a member of The National Youth Theatre."

Looking further ahead towards his career aspirations, Ibrahim said: "I would love to do something within the medical field such as Dentistry. I would also love to continue and audition for opportunities in theatre and on TV."

Symphony of success for Darcie

Darcie has truly reflected Westholme's holistic ethos, achieving a fabulous array of two 8s and three 7s in her GCSEs whilst being involved in a plethora of musical and dramatic extracurriculars.

Darcie (who plays the cornet) has dedicated her time to countless rehearsals and concerts with the school's Swing Band, Wind Band, and Orchestra, as well as the Senior, Junior and Show Choir. She has also performed with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.

"Of the many achievements I have reached in my time at Westholme, the one I am most proud of is my musical journey, which started at Westholme in Year 4 when I picked up a cornet for the first time. I have never looked back since and it has taken me all the way to the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain", Darcie said.

She hopes to develop her passion for music into a career, beginning with studies in Music, Drama and English Literature at our INSPIRED Sixth Form. Darcie is aspiring to go to a music conservatoire to study cornet, complete a degree as well as a Master's degree and following this would like to pursue a career in either performing or teaching.

Darcie was pleased her results have helped her go on to study the subjects that interest her, saying:



"I am happy with my results. I managed to fit a lot of performances in alongside my studies, so I am pleased."

She acknowledged that the environment at Westholme enabled her to follow her dream, helping her balance performances with studies. She added: "It is a great environment to be in day-to-day. You receive a lot of support from teachers and students that encourage you to reach your potential."

Blueprint for the future for Evie



Evie Mitchell is building a bright future for herself – after gaining five 9s, four 8s and two 7s in her GCSEs.

Evie said she is particularly proud of her 9 in Physics and 8 in Further Maths.

She now plans to study further in Chemistry, Maths, Business and Product Design with her sights set on a career in either architecture or finance.

She said: "I love the creative side of architecture, but I also love working with numbers.

"My teachers have been very supportive. They were always there if I needed any extra support."

Outside of her academic studies, Evie has also enjoyed sporting success – playing for the school's hockey and netball teams. She's also enjoyed singing lessons and playing the trumpet.

Callum flying high after achieving top grades

Congratulations to Callum Calway after achieving three 9s, two 8s, and three 7s in his GCSEs.

Callum is excited to pursue his dream career of becoming a pilot. He said: "Becoming a pilot is something I've always wanted to do."

Callum will be continuing his studies at our INSPIRED Sixth Form and will now go on to study Maths, Physics, and Economics. Callum has a passion for business and is looking forward to the next stage of education after all the "hard work paying off" during his GCSEs.

Callum was part of the football team while at Westholme and his favourite memory was playing with his team at Ewood Park in Blackburn.



Football star leads by example with results on and off the pitch

Congratulations to Harry Duckworth who achieved two 8s, five 7s, one 6 and two 5s in his GCSEs results. Harry is looking forward to continuing his studies at INSPIRED Sixth Form to undertake his Maths, Geography and Sociology A Levels with the ambition of a future apprenticeship.

Harry, insisted that his success was down to the hard work he put in. "I am proud of my results. I feel I deserved what I got, and it is a relief to know that I have got out what I put in."

Sport has played a big part in his time at Westholme as Harry threw himself into many extracurricular activities where he was part of a team.

"Playing football with my year group, enabled me to develop my ability to work as a team and encouraged me to become more of a leader," Harry said.

Harry's personal achievements at Westholme included coming second in the combined Year 11/Year 12 house cross country, being unbeaten in all games on the Barcelona trip and in Year 7 getting the chance to play at Ewood Park in the final of the Blackburn with Darwen cup.

"I really valued the wide range of extracurricular activities available that can be enjoyed with friends, for example - the week-long sports trip to Barcelona where we had the opportunity to train with the Barcelona FC training staff," Harry said.

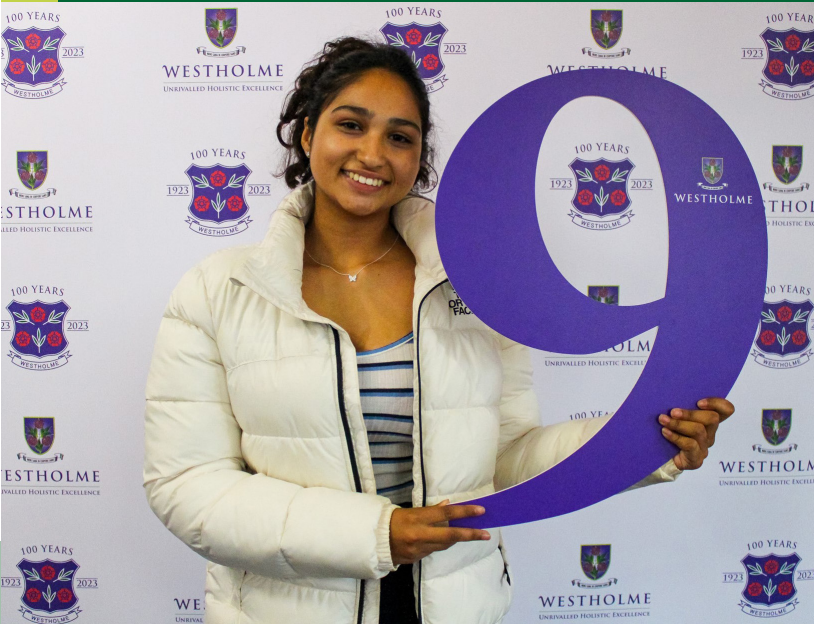


"I also valued the teachers providing students with as much opportunities possible to support with learning for example - extra revision classes after school.

"Another key highlight for me is that I have made the most of my time at Westholme by accepting many opportunities given to me, making my last 9 years at Westholme hugely enjoyable and vital to my academic progression."

Harry is looking forward to continue playing football during his time at our INSPIRED Sixth Form.

Katy's results are just what the doctor ordered



Congratulations are in order for Katy today after achieving three 9s, five 8s and three 7s in her GCSEs. She was particularly proud of her Biology, Chemistry, English Literature and Further Maths results after putting in the hard work.

Katy said: "I'm thrilled. I know the grade boundaries have changed and that it would be harder to achieve the top marks so I'm really grateful to get a few 9s!"

Katy now continues her studies in Science and joins our INSPIRED Sixth Form to study Biology, Chemistry, Maths and English Literature.

With aspirations of a career in medicine, she said: "My dad's a doctor – and I couldn't imagine doing anything else!"

Having represented Westholme in tennis, swimming, hockey, netball, the orchestra and music festivals, playing the trumpet and piano and LAMDA, Katy said: "One of my highlights at Westholme was getting a grade 8 in LAMDA. I also played for Lancashire hockey for six years. Here at Westholme I've had chance to experience arts, sport, drama, music – as well as academic studies. It's very holistic."

Her advice to future students taking their GCSEs was: "Put in the work and do your best so you're happy with what you achieve."

Advice to upcoming Year 11s

"My biggest piece of advice would be to not stop all extracurricular activities and social time, to have an equal balance of work and free time. As a very busy person myself, I was skeptical about being able to fit it all in, and to be on top of revision but you should have no problems with fitting everything in. And don't stress! They are much less scary than you think." – **Darcie Dewhurst**

"Really focus and revise hard for the mock exams and not write them off, as that will really set you up for GCSE success. You will be surprised at how much you remember if you work hard for your mocks and how much this will enable you to achieve success." – **Charlotte Kenyon**

"Grasp every opportunity given to you, not only is this a year where you will be studying hard for your GCSEs, but it is also a year where you will be considering what career you may pursue. Start your revising early – ingraining this into your routine from the start will make it a much easier process, and less overwhelming." – **Maisie Banks**

"Make the most of your time at Westholme by getting involved in the different clubs and productions available. Join in the lunch time revision clubs that are there to help you and ask teachers for help if you're unsure about something. Lastly enjoy yourselves and don't stress. If you're relaxed and having fun, you will do well." – **Ibrahim Ismail**

"It is important to start studying early so that you don't have to panic closer to the exams, and to find a revision style that works for you. However, it is also important to maintain a work/life balance and make time to do things you love." – **Eve Hames-Clarke**

"My advice would be to still enjoy yourself but now is the time to put all your effort into your school work, especially asking for extra work when possible as the teachers will always be there to support you. Make sure you end the year knowing you have put all of your effort into achieving your results." – **Harry Duckworth**

"If you want grades, work for them. Get on the good sides of your teachers so they don't mind answering your emails at 3 AM, ask for help when you need it and most importantly, DO NOT drop the ball after the mocks in year 11. Use all resources to their full potential and keep using your notes and past papers, to increase your knowledge." – **Jacob Smith**

"I think if you put in the work, it'll pay off. The sooner you start revising the better." – **Grace Berry**

Jacob aspires to become a medical student

Jacob Smith wowed everyone with his incredible two 9s, two 8s, and five 7s in his GCSEs.

Besides an impressive academic skillset, Jacob has also developed skills in a wide range of musical and theatrical ventures, including numerous choral/instrumental performances, as well as working hard behind the scenes and operating the lighting in our numerous productions. He thanks his friends for encouraging him to join musical extracurriculars such as our choirs.

Jacob thanked his teachers for their support throughout the years. He said: "Their constant encouragement to extend my boundaries of knowledge has been invaluable and I am incredibly grateful to all of them."

He added: "The teachers have always encouraged me to push myself. All the teachers take time out of their day to support me and they always answer any question I have, which is amazing."



Jacob will be joining our INSPIRED Sixth Form to study English Literature, Biology, and Chemistry with the future aim to work in the medicine field.

Jacob encourages future students to take their mocks seriously. He said: "Keep revising between the mocks and the actual GCSEs. It's just 6 months of work and after that you're free to enjoy your Summer."

He congratulated all his peers on their results: "It was a really hard year for students, but we've done really well."

Glittering career in the arts

Congratulations to Maisie Banks who achieved one 9, three 8s, three 7s and is now excited to step into studying for her A-Levels in English Literature, Drama and History at our INSPIRED Sixth Form.

Speaking about her results she said: "Overall, the results are about what I expected. I'm really proud of what I achieved."

Maisie's Westholme journey began in Year 7. She said: "Despite being amongst peers who had been friends since infants - I immediately felt welcomed and the support I have received from teachers has been amazing."

Citing the range of extra-curricular activities she has enjoyed alongside her studies, Maisie said: "Each student's individual success is valued the same - whether it be in sport, academic or the dramatic arts, meaning you don't just have to be academic to lead a successful future."

The annual school show was singled out as a favourite activity by Maisie. She said: "From starting off in the ensemble in my lower years then progressing to bigger roles in Fame and the Sound of Music, I feel like I have made great achievements in my drama journey. Rehearsals with the cast are always a positive



environment and it allows you to make new friendships throughout other year groups."

This experience has even informed Maisie's passion for a potential career in the drama industry either in video editing, acting or scriptwriting. And with a range of experience already under her belt, Masie is well on her way to a glittering career in the arts.

"Throughout my time at Westholme I have completed LAMDA exams in Public Speaking, Musical Theatre and Acting, which I have received consistent distinctions and I will be doing my Grade 7 Musical Theatre and Acting exams next year. I will also be doing my grade 7 Trinity singing exam in Year 12. Another achievement of mine is receiving the drama award for my year group - in Year 10."

Charlotte raises the bar

Charlotte Kenyon is thrilled to have achieved two 9s, one 8, five 7s and two 6s and is looking forward to continuing her studies at our INSPIRED Sixth Form. Charlotte will be studying English Literature, History and Drama and has her sights set on completing a degree in English Literature followed by a Law conversion course. Her aspirations are to pursue a career in the Familial Law sector as a Solicitor or Barrister.

She said: "I'm really proud. I'm really happy that the hard work paid off in the end. It was a lot of work and I have been focusing hard – but it's all paid off.

"The teachers have been so supportive. You can always ask for advice from them and speak to the subject matter experts and really embrace the subjects you enjoy."

One of the highlights of her time at Westholme has been taking a lead role in *The Sound Of Music* last Summer. Charlotte loved our Drama productions which she credits to building her confidence.

She also enjoyed being part of the hockey team, choir and other clubs which she said helped to build teamwork skills.

"Westholme really focuses on making you a rounded person, with equal focus on interaction, teamwork and social skills," Charlotte said. "From an academic perspective, Westholme prepared me for my GCSEs in



such a great way that allowed me to feel well prepared for exam days. I felt that I always had someone that I could speak to."

"Being at Westholme has really enabled me to pursue the subjects that I most enjoy and embrace them in a way I wouldn't have been able to elsewhere. Being part of the Westholme family has allowed me to dive deeper into the subject matter of these topics that I thoroughly enjoyed, with valued help from the teachers," added Charlotte.

When asked what she valued the most about her time so far at Westholme, Charlotte said: "I really valued the support that all the leaders, teachers and staff gave me throughout my school journey. Especially through these past two GCSE years, where I always felt as though I could ask for help and advice, if I was struggling with anything academic or personal."

We are both incredibly proud of the students and their achievements this year.

These results are a product of students' hard work in and out of lessons; attending clinics and revision sessions at lunchtimes, before and after school, as well as in the school holidays. During that time they have balanced the rigours of academic life with the wealth of extra-curricular opportunities and enrichment activities on offer at Westholme – rehearsing for school productions, musical performances, sports fixtures, and attending school trips at home and abroad. Particular praise must be given to how well students conducted themselves during the examination series, something both our examinations officer, Mrs Bentham, and the examinations invigilators, commented on. Their hard work has paid off, and we wish you all the success in the future!

**Mr Cornwall and Mrs Rigby
Heads of Year 11**





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