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To All Parents & Guardians at Priory School:

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GCSE & A LEVELS–LEAGUE TABLES 2017

League Tables have this week been published by the Department of Education (DfE) for GCSEs and A Levels taken in summer 2017.

These replace the old tables based on A-G Grades, and, as a standard measure for GCSEs, “*candidates who have gained 5 or more GCSEs at A*-C with English & Maths*”.

The DfE have introduced a new system of measurement based on the progress pupils have made, measured over years. It is based on a group of 8 subjects and is called Progress 8. English & Maths are still at the core of it. It is quite complicated, and uses a number of measures to arrive at rankings. There is an explanation on the DfE website and a video if you google Progress 8.

Below you will find two links that go through to DfE official statistics, firstly on Isle of Wight Schools; and secondly on all schools in England. These can also be found on BBC websites and in the County Press.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase®ion=921&geographic=la&phase=16to18&for=16to18&datasetFilter=final>

[All schools and colleges in England - GOV.UK - Find and ...](https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-...)

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-...>

Compare school and college performance ... find schools and colleges in England and view tables of their performance. ... Open help text for Staying in education ...

On both tables you can find Primary, GCSE and A Level data by clicking on the column so named. (Primary, Secondary, 16-18).

1. Primary: Priory School does not feature in the Primary table (neither does Ryde Private). We do not do SATS, though of course we carry out our own assessments.

2. Secondary-GCSEs: Priory School has no overall Progress 8 score (the coloured box where the nearer the score is to zero or above zero the better). But on the two other measures – Attainment & Grade 5 or above at **English & Maths - we are listed as the best among the 12 secondary schools on the island** for the latter and 3rd for the former. However, as in previous years, when we examined the data, we found the DfE had included pupils that had taken Maths in a previous year so their early success was not counted, and appear to have taken 16 pupils rather than the 13 in S5 that sat last year. Schools have a month to submit amendments to this data. We have estimated that if we are correct in that the DfE – not for the first time – has used incomplete data, both those measures will increase for Priory. I will report once we have found out. Nevertheless, it is extremely gratifying to be already judged the best on the island in the essential core subjects of English & Maths. Our congratulations to students and tutors.

3. **6th Form-A Levels:** This is the 16-18 column. **On the Isle of Wight we are listed as the top school** by a wide margin on both Progress & Point Score.

The final table is on the second link “All Schools & Colleges in England”. **There Priory is ranked 21st out of 4417 schools in the whole of England for A Levels.**

Our congratulations again, but especially to Mrs Soar and her 6th Form Tutors, and of course the candidates themselves. As I noted in the summer, all our 6th Formers went through to their 1st or 2nd choice of University and none went into clearing. But these official statistics confirm and validate this in the most striking way. It corroborates the two Good Schools Guide Awards we have won in recent years.

It is also very heartening to have an island school feature so high in national rankings, showing that the Isle of Wight can achieve excellent results for its pupils, as we are entirely staffed by islanders, all our pupils and families come from the island, and we rely – parents, pupils and staff – entirely on our own resources.

At a time of great change in island education, especially in its 6th Forms, we feel confident that Priory School can offer a secure and proven option for the education of your children.

I would just like to thank all the staff, as of course GCSEs and A Levels only build on all the work in earlier years, without which these successes would not have been possible. And thank all of you for your unstinting and continuing support.

This is a “red letter” day for Priory School, without doubt.

E J Matyjaszek
Principal