

STUDENTS JOIN THE 'A' TEAM

Determined teens are record breakers

THE sums have all added up for one wannabe maths professor after he got 15 top GCSE results.

by **BEN TURNER**
Education Reporter

The extraordinary efforts of 16-year-old Sam Fovall came as students across Merseyside secured a record amount of top grades.

The Wavertree teenager was among students at Childwall Sports College who took up the school's offer to do extra exam preparation during half term holidays, weekends and before and after school.

And it has paid off with the teenager chalking up seven A*s, four As and four Bs.

It means he is now a step closer to his dream of becoming a maths professor. Sam said: "I think it is down to pure hard work and doing the extra activities the school offered such as doing maths at dinner time."

Local authorities across Merseyside reported another best ever exam showing which mirrored the national picture with the percentage of UK students awarded five grades A*-C rising from 65.7% to 67.1% since last summer.

Bright spark Christopher Watts's chances of becoming a doctor were given a boost with 12 grades of C and above including an A* and five As.

The Wavertree teenager, who has his heart set on a career in medicine, will continue his studies at Broadgreen International School.

He will take the International Baccalaureate qualification which will include a work placement at an Indian orphanage.

Headteacher Ian Andain said: "Chris has always maintained that he wants to study medicine and be a doctor. We have no doubt that he will succeed."

Elsewhere West Kirby twins Katherine and Tim Hurst had a double helping of good news after notching a whopping 21 As and A*s between them.

Katherine achieved 10A*s at West Kirby Grammar while Tim, a pupil at Calday Grange Grammar School achieved nine A*s and two A grade passes.

Knowsley students helping the borough achieve record results included pupils at Huyton's Bowring secondary school, Adam Green and Andrew Seddon, who each picked up 14 A-C grades.

Knowsley Hey students Samantha Atherton and Emma Connolly went even further bagging 16 and 15 A-C grades respectively.

Elsewhere Jane Clarke 16, revealed the secret of her success - shopping.

The pupil at Bellerive Catholic High School in Sefton Park picked up five A*s and seven As.

She said: "I worked really hard and did a lot of revision but I would make sure that I went into town in the morning and did a bit of shopping first."

Andy McNally, a pupil at Birkenhead's Park High school somehow found time to complete half of a German A-level (known as an AS) as well as netting 9 A* and A grades.

Critics of the GCSE this year included education charity Edge which claimed the current exam options failed to let the talents of all pupils "flourish."

But Dewi Phillips, head at Childwall Sports College, said yearly snipers "demean" students efforts.



CELEBRATION: Teacher Lynn Gilford (centre) celebrates with pupils at Childwall Sports College
Picture: ANDREW TEEBRY/AL270009a

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For a student's live blog of receiving his GCSE results, go to www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/education

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