

## Outstanding results for distance learning students

Friday 23 August, 2013

The National Extension College (NEC) has some excellent GCSE and IGCSE results today. 74% have received grades A\*-C, compared to 68% nationally. Despite the drop in science grades nationally, 73% NEC students have achieved grades A\* - C against a national average of 58% .

The focus today is understandably on school learners, but we must not forget everyone else getting results today. NEC learners might be active forces personnel on rotation in Afghanistan or at sea, or working mothers who are retraining for a career in teaching or midwifery, we really do have learners from all walks of life. Many of our learners collecting their results today are likely over 18, and have fitted in their study around jobs and family responsibilities. Alternative routes to education are essential for learners like these whose hard work and dedication is not always recognised.

We are really proud of our learners at NEC, Louise Tolhurst, NEC Student Services Manager has this to say about this year results day 'Having retaken my own GCSE Maths last year, I can relate to everyone getting results today and the challenges they face as distance learners. We have had some great feedback already with some excellent results, showing that the hard work our learners put in to achieve their goals, with the help of our dedicated tutors, really pays off.'

This week many schools and students have been nervous, following reports of expected grade drops and an official warning from Ofqual to expect lower grades. Ros Morpeth, CEO of NEC says 'With the media hype this week surrounding the anticipated fall in grades, I'm sure many people had prepared themselves for the worst. Having offered most of our subjects as IGCSEs for many years now, we were confident that this year we would see our usual high standards of results and have not been disappointed. We know it doesn't always go as planned so to anyone who didn't get the grades they need, don't give up - get in touch and see if we can help you. If you did get the grades you wanted, then congratulations and best of luck with the next step of your learning journey! '

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