

Notley High jumps ahead in the ranks

Top grades: School's GCSE results improved by 11 per cent

NOTLEY High School improved its GCSE results the most in the district in the past year, latest figures show.

The school, in Notley Road, Braintree, had 238 pupils take GCSE exams last year, and 66 per cent achieved at least five A* to C grades, including English and maths.

The percentage was the second best in the Braintree area, just behind Honeywood School, in Westfield Drive, Coggeshall.

Notley jumped 11 per cent, after achieving 55 per cent from its 2010 results.

Honeywood also improved on its 2010 results.

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Last year, 196 pupils sat GCSE exams at the school, with 68 per cent gaining at least five A* to C grades, including English and maths – an increase of three per cent on the 2010 figures.

New Rickstones Academy, in Conrad Road, Witham, achieved the same results as in 2010, with 40 per cent of its 146 GCSE pupils gaining at least five A* to C grades, including English and maths.

Maltings Academy, in Spinks Lane, Witham, had 153 pupils sit GCSE exams last year, with its figures dropping from 50 per cent

in 2010 to 42 per cent last year.

Tabor Science College, in Panfield Lane, Braintree, also had a slight drop. A total of 204 pupils sat exams and 47 per cent achieved at least five A* to C grades, including English and maths, compared to 48 per cent the previous year.

The Government league tables, released last Thursday, showed Alec Hunter Humanities College in Stubbs Lane, Braintree, had 199 pupils take GCSE exams.

The percentage of pupils who gained at least five A* to C grades, including English and maths, fell from 51 per cent in 2010 to 45 per cent.

The school's value-added score, which measures the progress

made by pupils since the end of primary school, was 953.9, which put it in the bottom 100 of secondary schools in the country.

Independent school, Gosfield School, in Halstead Road, Gosfield, fared best in the district.

It had 16 pupils sit exams and 88 per cent of pupils hit, or exceeded, the five A* to C grades, which was an improvement of ten per cent on the previous year.

The full league table can be viewed at braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk under the Local Information section.

'Excellent achievement across the range'

IN RESPONSE to the GCSE results, Simon Thompson, headteacher at Notley High School, said: "We are delighted that two thirds of last year's Year 11 cohort achieved five or more A*-C grades including English and mathematics.

"These are the best results on this measure that we have ever achieved.

"However, there is a danger that this measure focuses attention on the C/D borderline, and we are equally pleased that 99 per cent of our students achieved five or more A*-G grades and all our students left us with at least one qualification, reflecting excellent achievement across the whole ability range."

RIGHT: Simon Thompson.

