

**BEST SET OF RESULTS FOR  
SECOND YEAR  
RUNNING**

**ADVENTUROUS STUDENTS  
BUILD HOUSES IN MEXICO**

**1000 PEOPLE FLOCK TO  
FUN DAY**

**SPARKLERS AND  
SCALEXTRIC AT SUMMER  
SCHOOL**

**“OUR OUTSTANDING RESULTS MAKE  
US ONE OF THE MOST IMPROVED  
ACADEMIES IN THE REGION”**

**SAYS**

**DARREN GELDER  
PRINCIPAL, GRACE ACADEMY**



# PRINCIPAL'S VIEWPOINT

## “ONE OF THE MOST IMPROVED ACADEMIES IN THE REGION”



It gives me immense pleasure to be able to say that not only is Grace Academy the most improved school in the region for the second year, it is also the highest performing school/Academy in the area. The results of our students, both at A level and at GCSE, were outstanding and a true reflection of what they deserved. The work, commitment, patience and effort that students showed throughout their studies is reflected in what they have achieved. I would personally like to thank parents and carers for your support and motivation in helping us to achieve what we have.

I would also like to thank every member of staff who work tirelessly and professionally every day to ensure we are giving your children the best possible life chances. There were some amazing individual results and achievements, highlighted below. We also need to recognise the personal achievements of many students who surpassed their targets and predictions. As an Academy we made a commitment to every parent and carer that we would do our best to provide their child with the best education we can. These results confirm we are doing this.

We work incredibly hard to provide the balance pathways and opportunities for all students, including a huge commitment to the sports and the arts, as well as a traditional academic route. We will continue to do this as it forms a fundamental element of the 'Grace Way'. This is built upon our belief that every child should be allowed to be, and is capable of being, successful. It is underpinned by our ethos and values at the Academy and clear behaviour policy that all students, parents and carers sign up to. Without this and your support as parents, carers and students, we could not have achieved, or made, the progress we have. As the new academic year starts so does a new set of challenges; changing curriculum, shifting grade boundaries, new measures of progress etc. As I hope you would expect, we are ready for these challenges and will look to build on the outstanding performance and progress we have made so far. **Once again I thank you for your support and commitment to Grace Academy and your child's future.**

## BEST SET OF RESULTS FOR SECOND YEAR RUNNING...

### There were some amazing individual results and achievements:

- 68% of students achieved 5A\*-C including English and Maths
- 70% of students achieved A\*-C in English and Maths
- 83% of students made the expected progress in English
- 73% of students achieved A\*-C in Maths, an increase of 34% since 2014
- Ryan McGibbon, Year 11 student, achieved 4A\*s and 4As across a range of GCSEs
- Chloe Sutton, a Year 11 student, gained 4A\*s, 1A and 3Bs across a range of GCSEs



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# BUILDING HOUSES IN MEXICO

**“It was good to see that people with nothing can be happier than people with everything.” Sam Lanchester**

**T**en adventurous students from Grace Academy have taken up spades and shovels and built two houses for poor families in Mexico with little more than hand tools.

The industrious students raised £1,570 each to go on the eleven-day trip to transform the lives of two Mexican families living without electricity, running clean water, or access to a fridge, car and telephone.

The new 11 feet by 22 feet houses in Tijuana, which have a concrete foundation and stucco-finished exterior, will help to keep families together who cannot provide adequate housing for their children.

Student Jaden Carter said, “Before I went to Mexico I knew very little about poverty but now I understand the extent to which people in poverty live. We were read a poem about lacking, it spoke of how the people where we build the house feel like they don’t lack anything. This has stuck with me as in the western world, we seem to have everything and still want more. I’m very proud to have been a part of Build Hope Mexico 2016 and I’m very proud of what we have accomplished.”

The idea behind the ‘Build Hope’ scheme is to give students the opportunity to experience a new culture, the tools to help them make a difference in the lives of other people in need overseas, and a fresh perspective on life.

Tim Burgum, a teacher from Grace Academy who also went on the trip, said, “The trip to Mexico is a life-changing experience for students who learn about the value of things, and see families with no possessions who are still happy and grateful about everything they do have.”





# AWARDS

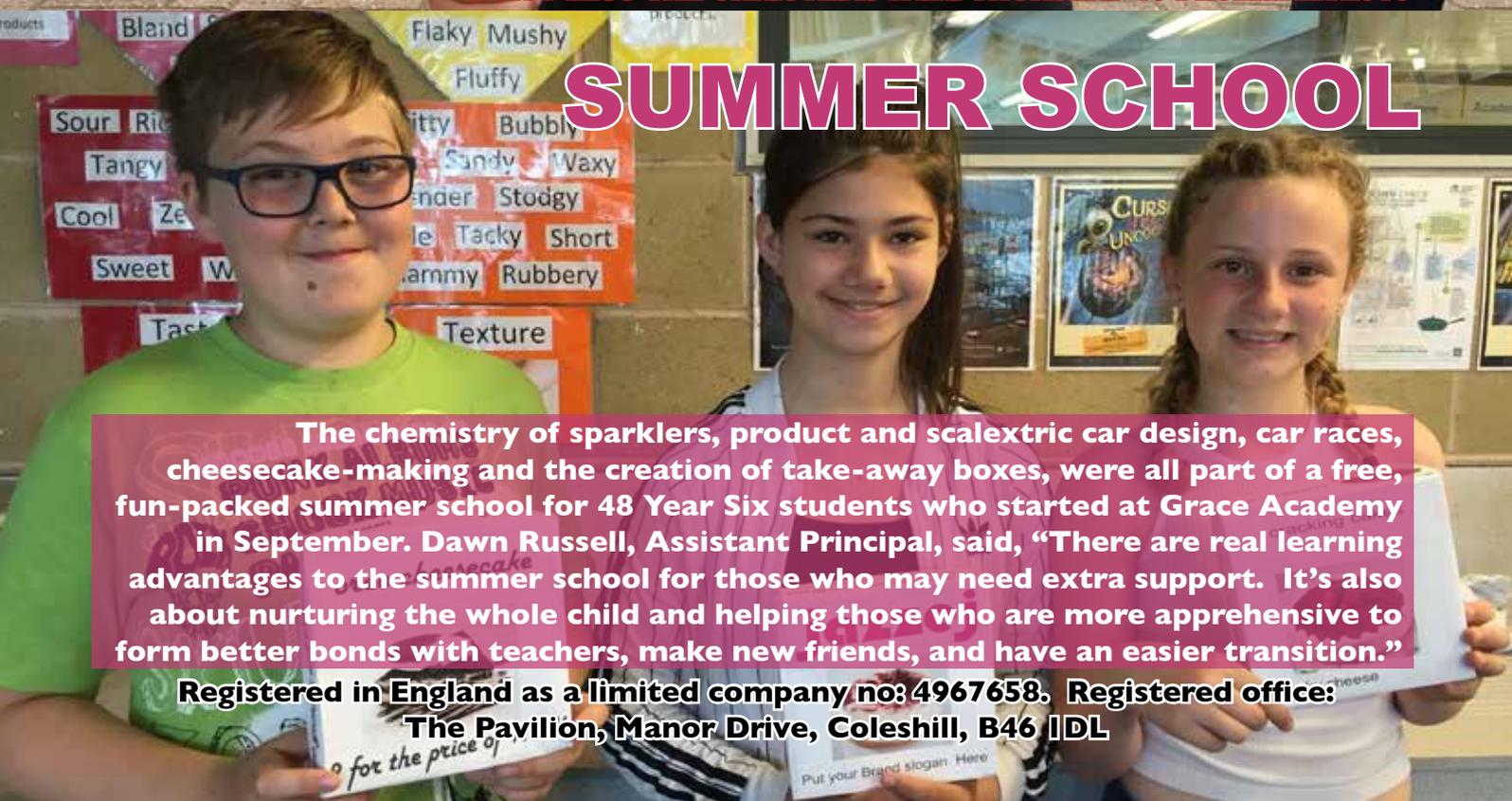
**“We would like to congratulate all our students on their achievements this year,” said Matt Spina, Assistant Principal for Ethos and Student Life. Speaking about a rise in standards he added, “I think we have seen a real step up in student achievement; as we have raised the bar they have responded. We can’t give everyone an award but every student has achieved something this year in terms of positive attitudes, increasing grades or sporting successes. Our message is to keep going, you could achieve outstanding attainment next year.”**



# FAMILY FUN DAY RUNAWAY SUCCESS

**Over 1000 people from Solihull enjoyed beautiful birds of prey, fun inflatables, smoothie-making, donkey rides, and hit songs from the shows courtesy of the student choir at the Grace Academy Family Fun Day. Free basketball lessons from the Birmingham As and boxing coaching from WBC Fit Club all added to the summer entertainment, along with soft play and craft for the younger generation. Laura Wadley, Youth and Community Coordinator, said, “It’s great to be able to give something back to local people who always make the day a runaway success.”**

**DON'T MISS THE CHRISTMAS FAIR: THURSDAY 15 DECEMBER 2016**



# SUMMER SCHOOL

**The chemistry of sparklers, product and scalextric car design, car races, cheesecake-making and the creation of take-away boxes, were all part of a free, fun-packed summer school for 48 Year Six students who started at Grace Academy in September. Dawn Russell, Assistant Principal, said, “There are real learning advantages to the summer school for those who may need extra support. It’s also about nurturing the whole child and helping those who are more apprehensive to form better bonds with teachers, make new friends, and have an easier transition.”**

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