

More students than ever before are heading for university from Chase High School.

In a year that saw the school graded as Good by Ofsted for the first time in its history, students have achieved the grades needed to go on to further education.

As they collected their A-level and BTEC results, students made history for the school, in Westcliff, with the highest number going on to university.

Among them were...

Megan Ovens, from Westcliff, who achieved two B grades and a C grade which take her to Greenwich University to study history and English.

Having moved to the sixth form from another facility, she instantly found her passion and career ambitions.

She said: “My results are better than expected. The school has provided us with so much support, with one-to-one sessions to not only study the content but to support our mental wellbeing.

“Before I joined Chase, I was at another sixth form and I did not want to go to uni. When I started at Chase, I fell in love with history and it made me want to go into teaching it. As soon as I joined Chase, I wanted to go to uni.

“The school even gave me opportunities to teach a Year 9 class which I really enjoyed. From that, I knew that I loved it. It was quite scary, but a good experience.”

It was not until **Mason North**, from Westcliff, started at the sixth form that he found what it was he wanted to do with his future.

It was the support and knowledge of his media studies tutors that helped him to decide he wanted to study television production.

Having collected a C grade and two Distinction* grades, he is now heading for Bournemouth University.

He said: “I was very, very happy with my results. With all the help from our teachers, I have done better than expected.

“The last couple of years have been quite challenging, especially with having not done any proper tests and going into sixth form without really knowing my full potential.

“I did not know what I wanted to do before joining the sixth form. I got into analysing movies and filming and spoke to my media studies teachers who helped me to find out what I wanted to do.

“It is good to know I’ve now got a future planned. I am happy I have got something to work towards that I enjoy. Chase has really secured that idea for me.”

Sixth form tutors have felt more like family to **Sydney Mifsud**.

As she looks forward to a fresh start at Essex University, Sydney has nothing but praise for the teachers who have helped her to get there.

Having picked up a Distinction* grade and two Distinction grades, she is going to study law.

Sydney, from Hullbridge, said: “My results are better than expected; I cried my eyes out! My teachers were watching me as I opened them as they knew how much I wanted this.

“To me, I have smashed my grades.

“I would not have been able to go into sixth form if it were not for my teachers, due to family issues. The school gave me the support I needed; they phoned me, sent me letters and emails – they did not give up on me. My teachers are not my family, but they have accepted me for everything I am and helped me to smash it.

“They had meetings with me to establish what it was I wanted to do. They told me things about myself I did not know; it gave me confidence. The best advice I was given was to find me in a subject. Law is exactly that, it feels like me in a subject.

“I have got such mixed emotions. I am scared of leaving them as they have given me that much support. They have been my rocks. But, I am excited to go to uni as it is a new journey and I do not know where it is going to take me.

“I am leaving my comfort zone, but I am really excited to see what it can bring me.”

Naznin Ahmed, from Westcliff, has always had ambitions of going to university.

Having achieved a B grade and two Distinction* grades, she is now heading to De Montfort University to study graphic design.

She said: “My sixth form teachers helped me with my personal statement and to figure out what sort of university I wanted to go to.

“It is all new, but I am quite excited to expand on what I have already learnt at sixth form.”