Better figures add up to A* performances

North Norfolk has bucked the national trend with many schools recording a dramatic increase in the percentage of pupils gaining A*-C for English and maths compared to last year.

Star performers included Sheringham High, where figures soared from 68pc to 80pc, and North Walsham High, which saw an impressive jump from 45pc to 58pc.

Aylsham, Broadland and Cromer high schools and academies are also celebrating improved figures.

Sheringham headteacher Dr Andrew Richardson said he was very proud of his students and staff.

Outstanding performances included Anna Brady, who gained 11 A* grades, including full marks in her English paper.

"Most people realise that there is much change in exams assessment at the moment, but what does not change is the commitment of the

staff here at Sheringham; a commitment to teaching great lessons, nurturing talent and getting the best from the students," said Dr Richardson.

Geoff Baker, principal of Cromer Academy, said while there had been a pleasing improvement in their headline measurement, the academy's progress figure had "gone through the roof" because students had worked so diligently.

They included Joe Coleman who said he had started working hard this year and was pleased with his A*, two As, six Bs and a C. "I've never been bad at school but I've never been as motivated as I have been this year. Dr Baker has helped by pushing me," said Joe.

At the independent Gresham's School, Holt, 62pc of pupils gained A*-C in maths and English.

Achievers included Sam Williams, from Aylsham, with 12 A's, plus an A in self-taught with support from modern language teacher Alannah Nash.