

Smiles all round as delighted students collect top results

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Smiles and celebrations swept the corridors of north Norfolk's high schools yesterday as delighted students collected their A-level results.

Pupils rushed to Paston Sixth Form College in North Walsham, Gresham's in Holt and Sheringham High School to collect the coveted envelopes then share their happy news.

Results at Paston and Gresham's rose this year, and while there was a slight dip in the pass rate of A*-C grades at Sheringham – from 77pc to 74pc – the A*-A and A*-B rates increased by 4pc.

Adam Cooke, head of sixth form, said: "We're really pleased about that, it's been an area we have been focusing upon."

"The main school is one of the best in the county and that's absolutely where we want the sixth form to be."

Among the high achievers was Hope Worsdale, who got A*s in French, maths and further maths, and James Mitchell, who took home A*s in history and maths and an A in religious studies.

Hope, 18, is going to Warwick to study maths while James, 18, is going to Cambridge to read law.

He said: "I'm really excited. I got my university acceptance this



■ Fern Kerrison, Jamie Kowalyk, Stephen Rawlings and James Mitchell celebrate.

Picture: ANTONY KELLY

morning so my family know. They're very pleased."

Paston saw an increase in results this year, with the number of pupils gaining an A*-C rising from 73pc to 74pc.

Principal Kevin Grieve said: "These outstanding results reflect our encouragement of students to work hard, have high aspirations and develop the skills to be extremely successful."

"Universities throughout the country will be receiving talented young graduates from Norfolk this autumn as a result."

Luke Bidby 18, from Coltishall, will be studying medicine at Cambridge, after achieving A*s in biology, chemistry and further maths and an A in physics.

Gresham's saw an increase in pupils' A*-C pass rate, rising from 84.6pc to 89.6pc, and their A*-E

pass rate, going from 99.6pc to 100pc.

Deputy headteacher Simon Kinder said the school was "thrilled" with the results.

"Most of our students have got into their first choice and we're particularly pleased about this because we think it's showing we're thriving with the International Baccalaureate and A-levels," he added.

Mum's pride at Callum's success



■ Callum Cooke and his mum Trudy study his top results. Picture: ANTONY KELLY

It was particularly proud day for mum Trudy Cooke as she saw her son Callum collect a top set of results from Gresham's – which will now see him go on to study at Oxford University. The 18-year-old from Bradwell, near Great Yarmouth, won a scholarship to the Holt boarding school when he was 16, and yesterday collected A grades in chemistry, physics and maths and an A* in art.

He will now be going to Oxford to study fine art and further pursue his career in the subject.

Miss Cooke, 41, said: "It's always something he's aspired to and he's always known he's had to put the hard work into it, and that's what he's done. "It's amazing, it's been a long time coming."

Callum, who previously studied at Ormiston Venture Academy in Gorleston, said he was "excited" to be going to Oxford, which was his "only choice". "I have always enjoyed art but it wasn't until I came to Gresham's that I thought of doing it at university," he added. "I was hoping to go to Oxford so I'm really pleased."