

Relief as students grab GCSE grades

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Straight A student: Masami Miura

By Daniel O'Brien

THERE was joy and relief across Barnet's schools this morning as pupils ended a long nervous summer by collecting their GCSE results.

Despite reports of falling grades around the country, students at Ashmole Academy, in Cecil Road, Southgate, bucked the trend, surpassing previous years by earning 97 per cent five A* to C grades, and 80 per cent five A* to Cs, including English and maths.

After tearing open his envelope to reveal 11 A*s 16-year-old Hussain Al-Jabir said he was "in shock" over his clean sweep of top grades, despite already banking an A* in maths and Arabic last year.

He said: "It is kind of a surprise because I didn't think I'd get an A* in English language. Last night it was really going through my head the different grades and what could happen. I'm really happy now."

Classmate Masami Miura, also 16, said she was relieved to have scored seven A* and five As.

"I'm pleased because I was really nervous coming in here," she said. "I didn't really know how I'd done. Some of the exams were more difficult than I expected."

Assistant head teacher and head of year 11, Balbinder Dhinsa paid tribute to the pupil's hard work and dedication.

He said: "It's a great achievement for the students. They worked extremely hard this year. It is a highly motivated year group who rose to the challenge of making sure that they were going to achieve the best."