

MERCHISTON

Academic Results 2014-15

A Message from the Headmaster...



We are delighted with these academic results, which once again underline the School's real academic strength at every level. The roots of each boy's success go back many years, and the foundations of the results of the future for some pupils are currently being laid with our youngest boys, aged 7. Small class sizes and a motivating, single-sex learning environment ensure that each boy has the best possible opportunity to reach his potential.

With every boy's academic journey, we believe that the best direction we can provide is to care for the boys, to inspire them and, again, to try always to keep the mantra 'Boys first'. The boys respond to this approach and for the most part, in return, develop a real work ethic. This is all part of the Merchiston way of life and is a major component in our examination results. What particularly pleases me about these results is that, yet again, they prove that the boys working alongside the staff in being inspired and seeking further inspiration is the way forward. It is my responsibility to try to ensure that every member of staff understands the importance of 'switching on the light bulbs' inside the head of every boy at Merchiston. All schools have reporting procedures and parents' meetings but we also like the systems administered by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at the University of Durham: I hope you will enjoy reading about the tests our boys undertake. The testing systems allow us to know so much about each and every boy and what makes him 'tick'.



The Merchiston education must open doors for young people. It can do this in a number of ways, but in the current economic climate, there is none more important than providing them with the qualifications to pursue the career they want to. The GCSE results are particularly outstanding this year, and both they and the A Level results continue the long-running trend of Merchiston's boys being amongst the highest attaining in Scotland.

I hope that you enjoy reading this material. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to visit Merchiston and spend time with us, and see first hand how we nurture the learning of boys.

Celebrating Merchiston's Impressive Academic Results

- 53% of successful applicants in 2015 went to UK Russell Group Universities, Bath, St Andrews and leading international institutions.
- Highest percentage of A* and A awards in Scotland at GCSE
- 100% pass rate at A Level
- 12 pupils achieved a clean sweep of A* and A grades at A Level
- 53% achieved at least one A* or A grade
- 23 pupils achieved a clean sweep of A* and A grades at GCSE
- 70% A*/A pass rate at GCSE



“The rate of improvement in my son academically has been wonderful to witness. This is of course largely down to him, but we absolutely recognize, as more importantly does he, that this was unlikely to have happened without the support and guidance of the teaching staff of Merchiston. On receiving his results he felt ‘10ft tall’, full of confidence. We have no doubt his rate of improvement will continue as a result of that confidence and he is fired up to begin his A Levels which again is wonderful to witness.” Current Parent

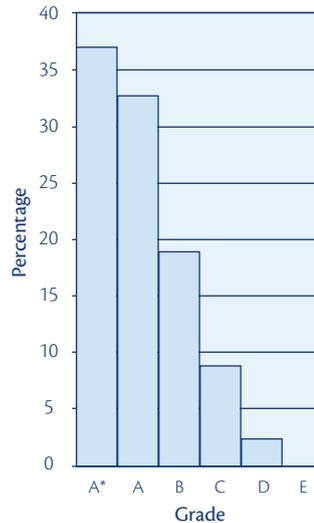
GCSE Results

98% gained A*-C grades

	No. Sitting	% A*-B	% A*-C	Av Points
2002	50	73	96	56.8
2003	68	82	98	53.7
2004	59	79	97	57.6
2005	70	78	97	60.4
2006	51	81	98	60.9
2007	60	84	98	56
2008	61	81	97	52.8
2009	63	89	98	58.4
2010	66	84	97	54.6
2011	73	89	98	50.48
2012	62	90	97	62.6
2013	71	86	95	66.4
2014	68	83	96	61.4
2015	73	89	98	51.6
Running Av	64	83	97	58

Average points calculated as follows: A=8, A=7, B=6, C=5, D=4, E=3, F=2, G=1

GCSE Results 2015

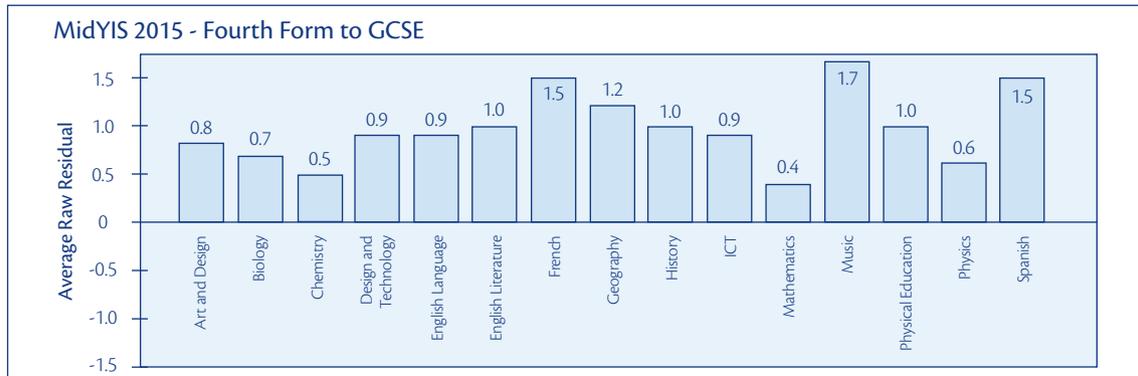


Total Papers Taken	651	
A* Grades	242	37%
A* + A Grades	457	70%
B Grades	124	19%
C Grades	57	9%
D Grades	10	2%
E Grades	2	0%
F Grades	1	0%
A* + A + B Grades	581	89%
Overall Pass Rate (A*-C)	638	98%

GCSE	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pass (A*-C)	98%	97%	98%	97%	98%	97%	95%	96%	98%
A* Grades	24%	22%	29%	31%	28%	38%	30%	22%	37%
A Grades	33%	34%	39%	29%	31%	27%	31%	35%	33%
A*, A + B Grades	84%	81%	89%	84%	89%	90%	86%	83%	89%

4 Pupils obtained 11 A* and A
12 Pupils obtained 10 A* and A
9 Pupils obtained 9 A* and A
3 Pupils obtained 8 A* and A
10 Pupils obtained 7 A* and A

MidYIS is a form of benchmarked national testing of pupils aged 13, used to predict GCSE grades. The chart below shows the 'value added' between national expectations for individual pupils, and achievement at Merchiston.



GCSE Results

Subject	No. of Candidates	A* (%)	A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)	E (%)	F/G (%)	Pass Rate A*-C (%)
Art and Design	14	6 43%	2 14%	4 29%	2 14%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Biology	57	20 35%	26 46%	11 19%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Chemistry	61	28 46%	20 33%	8 13%	4 7%	1 2%	0 0%	0 0%	98%
Chinese	17	14 82%	2 12%	1 6%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Design and Technology	17	1 6%	9 53%	6 35%	0 0%	1 6%	0 0%	0 0%	94%
Electronics	10	4 40%	5 50%	1 10%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
English Language	60	13 22%	21 35%	21 35%	5 8%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
English Literature	60	21 35%	25 42%	11 18%	3 5%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
ESOL	13	1 8%	8 62%	3 23%	1 8%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
French	27	14 52%	5 19%	3 11%	2 7%	2 7%	0 0%	1 4%	89%
Geography	34	18 53%	9 26%	6 18%	1 3%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
German	13	9 69%	0 0%	3 23%	1 8%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Greek	2	1 50%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
History	47	18 38%	19 40%	7 15%	2 4%	0 0%	1 2%	0 0%	98%
ICT	12	2 17%	5 42%	3 25%	2 17%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Italian	1	0 0%	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Japanese	1	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Latin	8	7 88%	1 13%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Mathematics	71	16 23%	21 30%	17 24%	16 23%	1 1%	0 0%	0 0%	99%
Music	3	1 33%	2 67%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Physics	59	32 54%	13 22%	9 15%	4 7%	1 2%	0 0%	0 0%	98%
Physical Education	15	2 13%	5 33%	5 33%	1 7%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	87%
Religious Studies	2	0 0%	2 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Russian	5	5 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%
Science (DA)	22	0 0%	5 23%	4 18%	10 45%	2 9%	1 5%	0 0%	86%
Spanish	20	8 40%	8 40%	1 5%	3 15%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	100%

Academic successes in external competitions



The following is a small taster of numerous achievements gained in external school competitions.

Biology Olympiad

Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth boys entered were extremely successful, gaining 2 Gold Medals, 3 Silver Medals, 1 Bronze and 4 Commended.

Chemistry

Cambridge Challenge (Lower Sixth boys): 3 Gold and 4 Bronze

RSC Olympiad (Upper Sixth boys): best ever results for the School with 3 Gold and 2 Bronze

Engineering

Engineering Education Scheme Scotland: 4 Lower Sixth boys competed in the Celebration and Assessment Day and were placed second overall. Their project was very highly commended.

English

87 boys' poems published in War of Words Young Writers anthology

93 Junior boys entered the English Speaking Board examinations: results included 27 Distinction and 50 'Merit Plus' grades

8 boys' 'Grim Tales' accepted for the Young Writers anthology and a further 30 accepted for their Ghost Story anthology.

Geography

The National Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz: Fourth Form, Shell and Fifth Form represented. 1 team reached the Regional Final.

Mathematics

Results in the UK Maths Challenges: Senior – 8 Gold, 4 Silver, 13 Bronze and three students qualified for the Senior Olympiad; Intermediate – 7 Gold, 10 Silver, 10 Bronze and four students qualified for the Intermediate Olympiad; Junior – 18 Gold, 14 Silver, 7 Bronze and seven students qualified for the Junior Olympiad (best ever result in School).

A team of four Sixth Form students won the Regional Final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge in Edinburgh and thus qualified for the National Final in London, where they were placed in the first fifty teams.

A team of four pupils from Third and Forth Forms achieved third place in the Regional Final of the Junior Team Maths Challenge in Edinburgh.

Physics

British Physics Olympiad: 1 top Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

AS Challenge: 2 Gold, 4 Silver, 2 Bronze I, 2 Bronze II

GCSE Challenge: 2 Gold, 4 Silver, 5 Bronze I, 14 Bronze II

Scottish Higher and Advanced Higher Results

These results are for the small number of our boys who study Scottish Advanced Highers and Highers.

Advanced Higher Results - Upper Sixth

Subject	No. of Candidates	A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)	F (%)	Pass Rate A-C (%)
Mandarin	2	2 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%
Music	1	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%

Higher Results - Upper Sixth

Subject	No. of Candidates	A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)	F (%)	Pass Rate A-C (%)
Biology	2	1 50%	0 0%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%
Chemistry	5	3 60%	2 40%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	5 100%
Mandarin	1	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
Mathematics	7	1 14%	2 29%	2 29%	0 0%	2 29%	5 100%
PE	3	3 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3 100%
Physics	8	0 0%	2 25%	5 63%	0 0%	1 13%	7 100%
Spanish	1	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%

SQA Results achieved by Lower Sixth Pupils

Subject	No. of Candidates	A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)	F (%)	Pass Rate A-C (%)
Higher French	5	2 40%	1 20%	0 0%	2 40%	0 0%	3 60%
Higher Mandarin	3	3 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3 100%
Higher Music	1	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
Higher Spanish	7	1 14%	5 72%	1 14%	0 0%	0 0%	7 100%

"I've been impressed with the way that Merchiston has maintained its all boys status and an environment where boys can be both nurtured and challenged. You've shown yourselves capable of getting the best of a wide range of abilities and have developed some fine young men."

Rob Taylor, Headmaster, Cargilfield

A Level Results

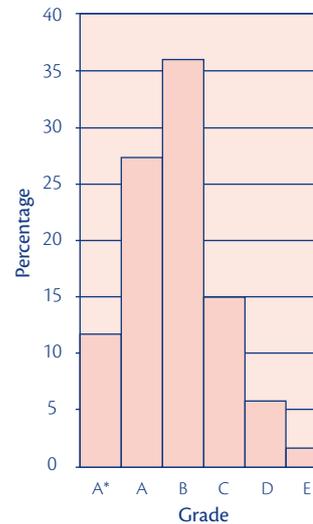


15 pupils gained at least 3 A*/A grades

	No. Sitting		% A-B	% Pass	Av UCAS Points/ Candidate*
2001	46		68	100	26.3
2002	49		81	99	30.0
2003	48		73	100	29.2
2004	40		70	100	335.5
2005	59		78	100	377.3
2006	57		77	99	332.0
2007	68		79	100	362.0
2008	59		82	100	342.0
2009	74		80	100	354.0
		A* - A	A* - B	Pass	
2010	64	58	80	100	388.8
2011	80	63	84	100	366.0
2012	77	56	82	100	390.1
2013	82	51	81	100	405.1
2014	77	54	81	100	398.4
2015	82	40	77	100	322.9
Running Av	71	54	80	100	378.5

*Please note that in 2003 the scoring method for A Level grades changed.

A Level Results 2015



*"I would say how delighted I am with what Merchiston has done for my son over his 5 years there. His academic results – A*A*A were beyond his (and my expectations) and he now goes off to Glasgow to study Politics as a well-rounded young man. Your school will always have the strongest of recommendations from me." Former Parent*

A Level Results

Subject	No. of Candidates	A* (%)	A (%)	B (%)	C (%)	D (%)	E (%)	Fail (%)	Pass Rate A-E (%)
Art and Design	4	1 25%	1 25%	2 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4 100%
Biology	12	2 17%	0 0%	6 50%	3 25%	1 8%	0 0%	0 0%	12 100%
Business Studies	7	0 0%	0 0%	1 14%	4 57%	2 29%	0 0%	0 0%	7 100%
Chemistry	12	1 8%	2 17%	2 17%	4 33%	1 8%	2 17%	0 0%	12 100%
Chinese	4	0 0%	4 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4 100%
Classical Civilization	3	0 0%	0 0%	2 67%	1 33%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3 100%
Design and Technology	11	0 0%	0 0%	7 64%	3 27%	0 0%	1 9%	0 0%	11 100%
Economics	23	2 9%	5 22%	9 39%	6 26%	1 4%	0 0%	0 0%	23 100%
Electronics	4	0 0%	3 75%	1 25%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	4 100%
English Literature	19	3 16%	7 37%	8 42%	1 5%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	19 100%
French	3	0 0%	1 33%	2 67%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3 100%
Further Mathematics	7	1 14%	3 43%	2 29%	1 14%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	7 100%
Geography	20	0 0%	5 25%	10 50%	2 10%	3 15%	0 0%	0 0%	20 100%
German	2	1 50%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%
Government and Politics	4	0 0%	1 25%	1 25%	1 25%	1 25%	0 0%	0 0%	4 100%
Greek	1	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
History	23	5 22%	7 30%	8 35%	3 13%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	23 100%
ICT	2	0 0%	1 50%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%
Japanese	1	1 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	1 100%
Polish	2	1 50%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%
Mathematics	35	6 17%	7 20%	14 40%	5 14%	2 6%	1 3%	0 0%	35 100%
Physical Education	2	1 50%	1 50%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2 100%
Physics	21	2 10%	10 48%	5 24%	1 5%	2 10%	1 5%	0 0%	21 100%
Religious Studies	4	0 0%	1 25%	0 0%	1 25%	2 50%	0 0%	0 0%	4 100%
Russian	3	0 0%	3 100%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	3 100%
Spanish	7	1 14%	2 29%	4 57%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	7 100%

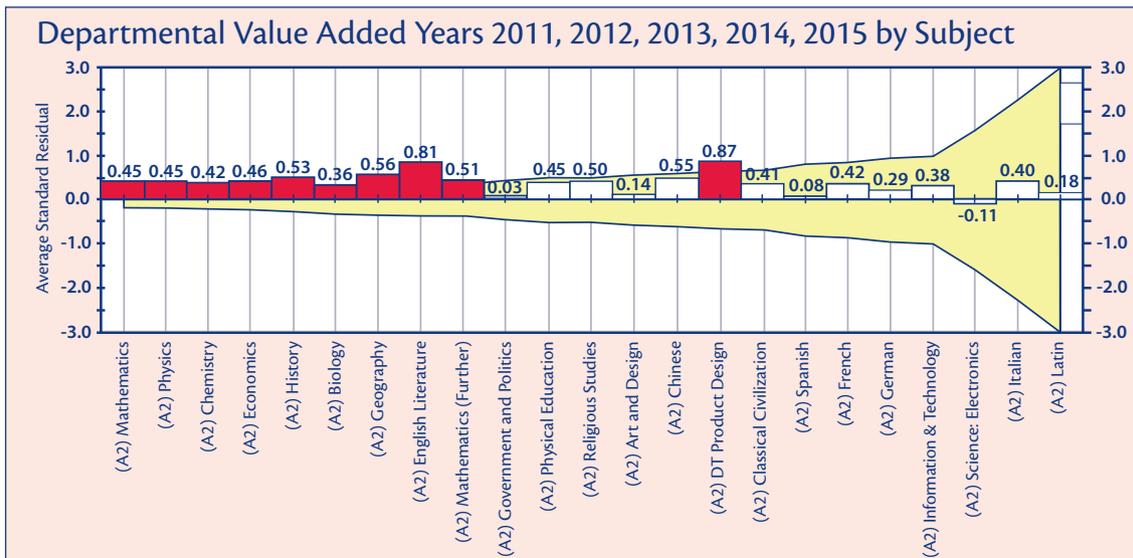
A Level Results

Total Papers Taken	236	
A* Grades	29	12%
A Grades	66	28%
B Grades	85	38%
C Grades	36	15%
D Grades	15	6%
E Grades	5	2%
U Grades	0	0%
Total Passed	236	100%

A* Grades	12%
A Grades	28%
A* and A Grades	40%
A*, A, B Grades	78%
Overall Pass Rate	100%

A Levels	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Pass (A*-C)	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
A* Grades							21%	24%	21%	19%	18%	12%
A Grades	44%	53%	36%	47%	44%	49%	36%	39%	35%	33%	36%	28%
A* and A Grades							57%	63%	56%	51%	54%	40%
A*, A and B Grades	70%	78%	77%	79%	82%	80%	81%	84%	81%	81%	81%	76%
A* - C Grades	87%	94%	95%	93%	95%	94%	95%	95%	96%	94%	96%	92%

The A* grade was introduced for the examination series June 2010, therefore the statistics in the A*, A and B Grades in the years 1999-2009 reflect the percentages for A and B Grades only.



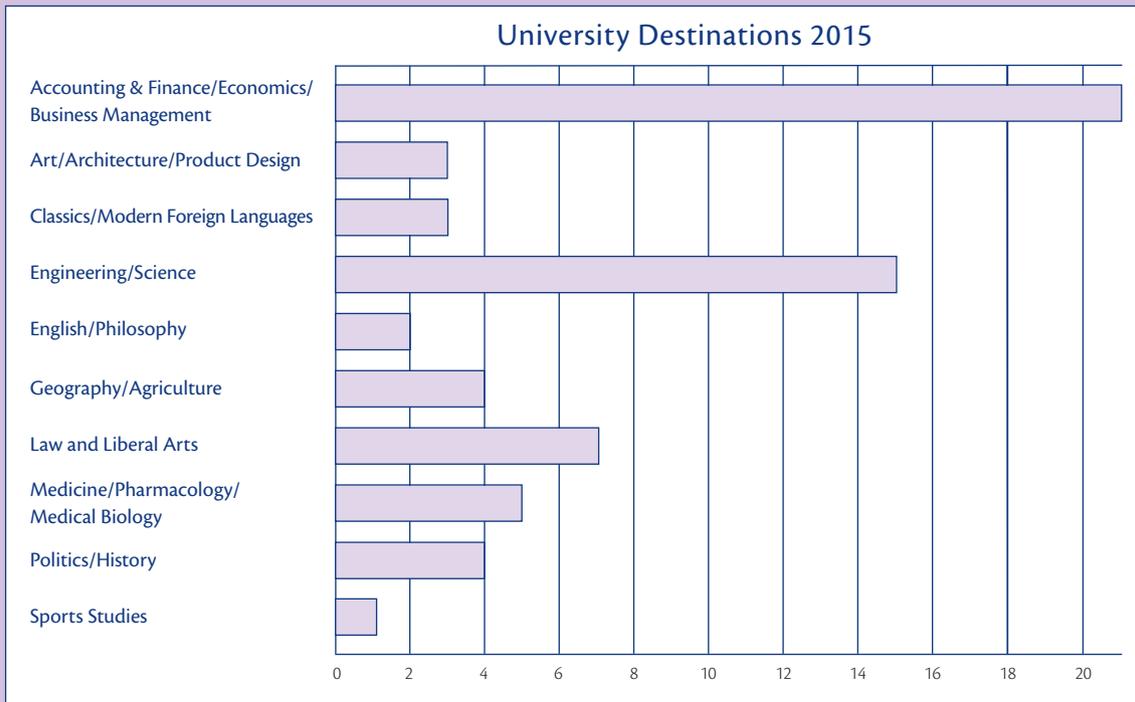
We now have software available to display value added at A Level using data obtained from a Test of Developed Ability (TDA) which Durham uses to predict A Level grades. "If the box is shaded red then it represents performance beyond expectation and this performance can be attributed, with confidence, to the teaching and learning process." (CEM, Durham)

Moving On



65% of pupils gained entry to their first choice of university

Many of this year's leavers will be taking up places at top UK universities – the destinations are shown on the following pages. Some of these pupils will be taking time away from their academic studies to experience living and working overseas as part of their GAP year. Their careers at Merchiston prepare them well as they embark on their future study; we equip them not just with the results they require to follow their chosen path, but also with essential 'life skills'.



University Destinations 2015



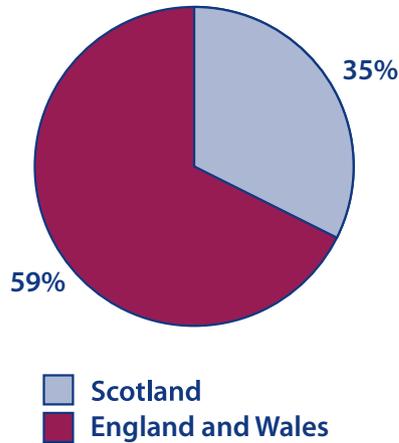
Pupil Destinations 2015

Scotland Total going to university in Scotland 23 (35%)			
Russell Group Universities	No of Pupils	Universities	No of Pupils
University of Edinburgh	1	University of Aberdeen	7
University of Glasgow	5	University of Abertay	1
		University of Dundee	2
		Edinburgh Napier University	2
		Glasgow School of Art	1
		Heriot Watt University	1
		University of Stirling	1
		University of Strathclyde	1
		Scotland's Rural College	1

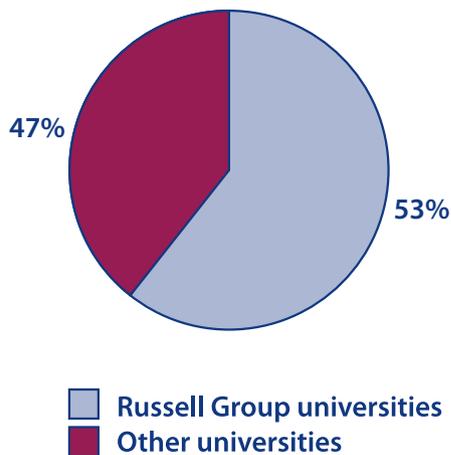
England Total going to university in England 39 (59%)			
Russell Group & Bath Universities	No of Pupils	Universities	No of Pupils
University of Oxford	2	Askham Bryan College	1
University of Bath	2	Brunel University	1
University of Bristol	1	De Montfort University	1
University of Durham	1	Harper Adams University College	1
University of Exeter	1	University of Kent	1
University of Leeds	1	Lancaster University	3
University of Liverpool	1	Leicester University	1
Imperial College London	2	University of West London	1
London School of Economics	2	Loughborough University	1
University College London	1	University of Northumbria	1
University of Newcastle	3	University of Sunderland	1
University of Sheffield	3	York St John University	1
University of Southampton	2		
University of Warwick	1		
University of York	2		

Other	No of Pupils
Brown University USA, Amherst College USA, UCSC USA, University of Hong Kong	4
Number of pupils gaining places at Oxford and Cambridge	2
Percentage of successful applicants going to UK Russell Group universities, Bath, St Andrews & leading international institutions	53%
Number of university applications submitted	66
Number of pupils gaining their first choice of university	43
Percentage going to first choice	65%
Number of pupils gaining their second choice of university	15
Percentage going to second choice	23%
Number of pupils entering clearing and gaining a place	8
Percentage going to first or second choice of university	88%

Pupil Destinations 2015



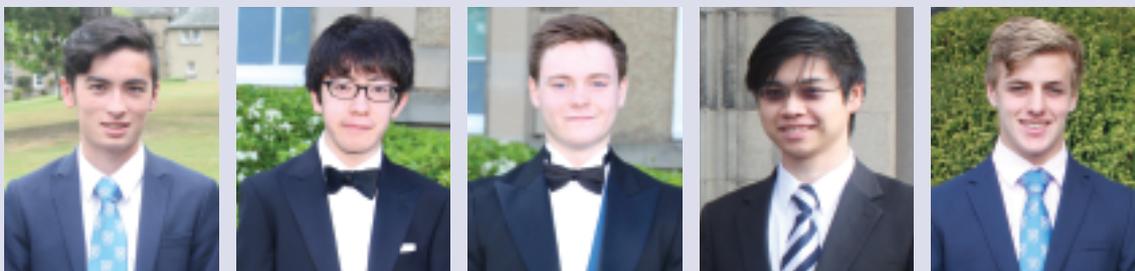
Number of university applications submitted:	66
Percentage of pupils gaining entry to their first choice of university:	65%
Percentage of pupils gaining entry to their second choice of university:	23%



Russell Group of Universities	
Cardiff University	University of Glasgow
Imperial College London	University of Leeds
King's College London	University of Liverpool
London School of Economics	University of Manchester
Queen Mary, University of London	University of Newcastle
Queen's University Belfast	University of Nottingham
University College London	University of Oxford
University of Birmingham	University of Sheffield
University of Bristol	University of Southampton
University of Cambridge	University of Warwick
University of Durham	University of York
University of Edinburgh	Plus Bath, St. Andrews & leading international institutions
University of Exeter	

"We are enormously proud of our son and all that he has achieved – and been given the chance to achieve – whilst at Merchiston. His time here has been the making of him and we feel he could not have been better prepared for the next stage of his journey." Parent

Recent Leavers with Places at Selected Universities



2015 Thomas Donald, Japanese – Hertford College, Oxford
Cameron Watson, History – Balliol College, Oxford

Joshua Wan, Electronic Engineering – Imperial College London
Victor Yiu, Medicine – Imperial College London
Ivaylo Ivanov, Accounting and Finance – London School of Economics
Andrew Service, Mathematics & Statistics – London School of Economics
Thomas Shen, Engineering – University College London

Seamus Macneil, Liberal Arts - Amherst College, USA
Alexander Ogilvy, Liberal Arts – Brown University, USA
Charles Li, Engineering – University of Hong Kong

2014 Dougal Balfour, Natural Sciences – Downing College, Cambridge
Matthew Edwards, Law – Brasenose College, Oxford
Carl Gergs, Philosophy, Politics and Economics – Pembroke College, Oxford
Antoine Magré, Natural Sciences – Girton College, Cambridge

David Cheung, Civil Engineering – Imperial College London
Cameron Nicholls, Electrical and Electronic Engineering – Imperial College London
Andy Xia, Physics – Imperial College London
Benson Chen, Mechanical Engineering – University College London
Mihai Marcuta, Information Management for Business – University College London
Jamie Mackay, Classics – University of St Andrews
Benjamin Powell, Marine Biology – University of St Andrews
Toby Townsend, Astrophysics – University of St Andrews

Maxim Renke, De Paul University, USA

“A balanced curriculum, excellent pastoral care and a high A Level pass rate make Merchiston one of UK’s leading independent schools.” www.ukboardingschools.com

A Boarding and Day School for Boys aged 7-18.

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