

## **Results Rocket at Sir Frank Markham**

Students at Sir Frank Markham have not just exceeded the school's best ever results, they have improved them by a massive 30%.

Last year just 21% of the school's students gained 5 or more A\*-C passes at the end of Key Stage 4, which itself was a 2% increase on the previous year and just 1% behind the school's highest ever percentage of 22.

With a few results still being chased up, the percentage of students in 2008 who gained 5 or more A\*-C passes is 51, a remarkable increase in just a 12 month period. In addition, the school also more than doubled the percentage of students gaining 5 or more higher grade passes including English and Maths, and is now well on course to meet government targets in 2009, two years ahead of schedule.

Pride of place goes to Sharika Anjun, who gained 8A\* and 5 A grades, but there were many more students who achieved nearly as well and the school saw a big jump in the overall number of A\* and A grades gained by students.

Sandra Clark, MK Council cabinet member with lead responsibility for children, described the results at Sir Frank Markham School as outstanding, particularly in view of the financial pressures the school has had to manage alongside the knowledge that in a years time the school is being replaced by an Academy.

Headteacher Mike O'Mahony was delighted with the school's results, which followed an almost 100% pass rate at A level the previous week, and paid tribute to the hard work of staff and students as well to the support of parents and the school's governors: "We have been very clear that for too long results for students at age 16 have been unacceptably low. We were confident of a big improvement this summer, but breaking the 50% barrier was even better than we had expected. This achievement has been a real team effort and really does show just how capable our students are. It was noticeable that whereas in the past the main disappointment for students was often if they had failed to get a C or a B in a subject, this year it was if they had fallen short of the A\* or A that they had been aiming for.

There is still much to be done and much scope for further improvement, but I am very confident that results will increase again next summer and that it really will be a confident, successful but still rapidly improving school that goes out on a real high note before becoming an Academy in September 2009".