

HEAD GIRL SCORES TOP MARKS AND OPTS FOR ADVENTURE

Harrogate, England: 24 August 2009 – One of Harrogate Ladies' College's shining stars has achieved four Grade A's at A-Level plus Distinctions in two Advance Extension Awards.

Last year's Head Girl, Lucy Smith, is now planning a three-term gap year and will be applying for a place to read English at Cambridge when she returns.

Lucy achieved four Grade As in English Literature, History, Geography and Theatre Studies. She also took two extra three-hour papers in English and History as Advance Extension Awards, and gained Distinctions in both.

Lucy, who describes herself as "Ridiculously happy" about the results, nevertheless isn't taking up a university offer this year. Instead, she's taking a gap year which she's split into three separate terms.

For her first 'term' she plans to get a job and earn some money to finance the year off. Her second 'term' will be spent sorting out university applications and gaining work experience for her plan to teach English as a foreign language. The third 'term' she intends to spend in Russia, teaching English.

Overall, Harrogate Ladies' College achieved a fantastic 53 per cent Passes at Grade A and 77 per cent A and B Grades.

Sixty-six girls applied for, and gained, University places, including: Oxford (Classics), Warwick (Law, Actuarial Science, Engineering), Imperial (Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Maths).

The school's new Headmistress, Rhiannon Wilkinson, says: "Lucy's role as Head Girl means she's devoted a lot of time to the school community this year. Alongside that she's also worked tremendously hard to achieve these stunning results".

"Rather than following a traditional route, Lucy has made an assertive decision to take a year out. Everyone at school will certainly be encouraging her to consider all her options when she returns. Our school ethos is to educate women so that they understand the choices open to them and can make their own decisions."