

# GET ON TOP COURSE

## Sharing the limelight, the celebrity parents



### Dinner's on me, so-proud Ramsay tells his happy twins

GORDON Ramsay congratulated his 18-year-old twins on their A-level success, saying: 'Dinner's on me!'

The 51-year-old chef, a father of four, said he was 'so proud' of Jack, who will go to the University of Exeter after achieving one A and two Bs, and Holly, who earned an A, B and a C and will study at Ravensbourne University London.

Ramsay also has a 16-year-old daughter, Tilly, and 20-year-old Megan, who is studying psychology at Oxford Brookes University.

In a social media post, he wrote: 'Well done Jack and Holly! Two more Ramsays off to university. I'm so proud, amazing results. Dinner's on me!' His wife, Tana, 43, revealed

last month that she used the Find My Friends app - which allows users to see the location of others using GPS - after her children went out to celebrate the end of their exams. She said: 'I woke up and it was 5am and Jack wasn't home.'

'So I went on the app and then saw he was at St Thomas' Hospital, so I freaked and rang him but tried to sound relaxed. In fact, he was just getting in an Uber.'

She added: 'I don't worry about the kids going off the rails because they have sport. They've been studying for exams and I've said, "Do a couple of hours of exercise and your brains will work better." I think it's helped them to deal with the stress.'



### Strictly Katie: My delight at daughter's great results

PRESENTER and Strictly Come Dancing star Katie Derham said she is 'as proud as could be' with her daughter's A-level results.

Natasha Vincent achieved an A\* in theatre studies along with Bs in French and English literature at Brighton College. She will now study drama at the New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Miss Derham, 48, the BBC Proms presenter and 2015 Strictly finalist who lives in Sussex, said: 'I'm as proud as could be. I'm so delighted. She's done so well.'

And despite the worries of opening the results - and reliving her own experience as a student - it was worth the wait.

She said: 'It brought it all flooding back,

that slightly sick feeling. But I'm very envious [of Natasha's place in New York]. It's a good excuse to go and visit.'

Natasha, 18, whose father is restaurateur John Vincent, said: 'I wanted to do well for my parents. I knew I had my place at NYU so I think I found it less stressful than some other people. I'm really excited about moving to New York. It's the hub of theatre, it's a great opportunity.'

Before she starts she hopes to get work experience with theatre production companies. However, she is not planning a career in presenting, like her mother. 'I just want to study drama and see where that takes me.' Miss Derham joked: 'No one wants to do what their mum does.'

### More pupils take PE than French

MORE students took A-level PE than French as students turned away from European languages.

Chinese also outstripped German, as pupils prepare for careers after Brexit. There were 3,058 entries for A-level German - down 16.5 per cent on 2017, according to the Joint Council for Qualifications. There were 3,334 entries for Chinese, up 8.6 per cent on 2017.

Entries for A-level German have halved over the last dec-

ade and teachers warn the subject could be heading for extinction. French remains the most popular language with 8,713 entries, although this is down 8 per cent. This is still fewer than the numbers taking PE - 11,307.

Spanish, which has seen a boost in recent years, also saw a fall in 2018, with entries down 4 per cent to 8,255.

Professor Alan Smithers, director of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at

Buckingham University, said: 'Chinese is now more popular as a foreign language than German which should stand us in good stead post-Brexit.'

Mark Herbert, director of schools and skills at the British Council, said: 'Mandarin will be one of the most important languages for the UK's future prosperity and global standing - but we mustn't neglect Spanish, French and German, which will still be vital post-Brexit.'

### Text-speak 'harms English'

RELIANCE on text-speak could be responsible for an appalling performance in English language, experts have warned.

Only 1.8 per cent of English language papers were graded A\* - the joint lowest performance across all subjects at this grade.

Professor Alan Smithers, of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at Buckingham University, said teenagers 'find it hard to get their heads round formal language'. He added: 'It's appalling that

results in our native language should be so very poor.'

The academic said many teenagers could still be struggling with basic grammar despite going on to study English language at A-level. Their teachers may also lack a proper grasp of the subject.

Record numbers of overseas students have been accepted on to UK degree courses despite Brexit warnings. Almost 60,000 have secured places - 26,400 from the EU and 31,510 from outside the bloc.