

GIRLS' ARTISTIC ENDEAVOUR REWARDED



SHOW TIME: Thirteen-year-old Stephanie Sansom, foreground, and Chantelle Bibby, 14, carnival dancing and, inset, Abby Steer and Maxine Tucker, both 13, with their books
OLIVER SANDERS XDD09665_OS_001 AND XDD09665_OS_005

Youngsters prove to be pass masters

BY JOANNE COCHRANE

PUPILS at a city school have proved there's no time like the present by taking and passing their GCSE exams three years early.

Thirteen girls between the ages of 12 and 14 from the independent Magdalen Court School, St Leonard's, all passed their expressive arts exams with flying colours.

Three got A stars, eight got As and two got Bs.

In total, 35 pupils from the school have taken GCSEs early this year — the youngest being just 12.

The expressive arts students had to choose three disciplines from music, dancing, art, creative writing and drama and devise their own productions.

Their finished material included children's books, self-portraits and theatrical costumes.

Jeremy Bushrod, head of the senior school, said: "It's absolutely phenomenal. They are all delighted with their results.

"We have a policy at the school whereby we believe in allowing children to take GCSEs when they feel confident enough to do so. We've also got a boy of 12 doing his GCSEs in November and our fingers are crossed for him.

"This group of girls stuck out as a particularly talented group. It's not everybody's sub-

ject but they are fairly confident in the arts.

"We try to boost their confidence. This then gives them more confidence with subjects they find harder.

"They have certainly proved themselves to be a talented bunch and the examining board has retained the pupils' work as examples of exemplary material."



PASS MASTERS:

Magdalen Court School students who passed their expressive arts GCSE early — Claire Mehigan, Maxine Tucker, Chantelle Bibby, Henrietta Irons, Sophie Maticott Cousins, Vijaya Howard, Stephanie Samson, Abigail Steer, Amber Fitzgerald, Belinda Hibbard, Lisa Neale and Jessica Deaze

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