

Maths prodigy gains A-grade 18 months early



SUCCESS: Toby Ross
OLIVER SANDERS XDD10124_OS_004

Sums add up for Toby

GIFTED Exeter schoolboy

BY EOM ARNOLD

them without over-pressur

GIFTED Exeter schoolboy Toby Ross has achieved an A in GCSE maths at the age of 14.

The Magdalen Court School year 10 pupil took the exam in November after teaching staff recommended he take it 18 months early.

Toby, from Cheriton Fitzpaine, near Crediton, has now set his sights on AS-Level maths.

He is also studying for GCSE summer exams in statistics, physics and information communication technology.

The independent school has praised Toby and paid tribute to his hard work.

Jeremy Bushrod, head-

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master of the school, said: "He is a very bright student. All we have given him is the guidance before the exams as he has the ability.

"Allowing him to do this early means he can make good use of his time and has more chance of maximising his potential."

The school encourages pupils to take exams early if they show a high aptitude in a subject.

Mr Bushrod added: "The nice thing here is that if you have the ability to do a subject early you can and then move on to make progress.

"It's about stretching

them without over-pressurising them."

Toby, who plans to do a degree in maths or computing when he's older, said: "I was very pleased with the grade. After I took the exam I felt quite confident.

"I didn't feel over pressured and I had some extra lessons.

"The ability to have done it early is a massive achievement because it shows it's not much of a jump to GCSEs."

Toby is likely to sit his AS-Level maths exams in 2007.

His mum, Penny, added: "We are very pleased for him. It's great that the school gave him the opportunity to do this."