

Changes to GCSE Grades

As I am sure you are aware reformed GCSEs will be introduced gradually over the next three years with first certification in Summer 2017 for English, English Literature and Maths. They will be graded from 9 to 1, instead of A* to G.

The new GCSE's will be significantly more difficult as they have additional content and are primarily assessed by examination. A new grade 5 will be the new 'pass' level, which is equivalent to a high grade C currently. Students awarded GCSEs in 2017 and 2018 will therefore receive a mixture of 9 to 1 and A*-G grades. The government have said that:

- Approximately the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and 7 or above as currently achieve a grade C and A or above.
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G .
- The top 2 per cent of students will be awarded a grade 9.

This new grading structure is shown at the end of this letter.

During the 2016/17 academic year, the Academy will continue to report in all subjects at Key Stage 4 as follows:

Year Group	2016/17
Yr 11	English, English Literature and Maths new GCSE 9 - 1 grades All other subjects old legacy A* - G GCSE grades
Yr 10	All subjects new GCSE 9 – 1 grades
Yr 9	All subjects new GCSE 9 – 1 grades

If your son/daughter is in Yr 10 in September 2016 then please be aware that if they study Science, History, Geography, Spanish, French, RE, Art, Music, Drama, PE or Computer Science that this will be a reformed GCSE as well and hence given a 9 – 1 grade in Summer 2018 when students are awarded their GCSE, along with English, English Literature and Maths.

As always we will aim to predict summer results 2017 and 2018 as accurately as we can, but please be aware that actual clear definitions of what a new grade (4, 5 etc.) is just does not and will not exist until the first exams have been awarded.

New GCSE Grading Structure



NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

We will, of course, forward any additional information to you as and when we receive it from the government. In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

P. Cooper

Vice Principal

