

Assessment at Key Stage 3

Reason for the changes

Since national curriculum levels are no longer being used in the primary schools and a new GCSE grading structure has been introduced nationally, secondary schools have had to consider their assessment frameworks.

The new GCSE grading

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
⑤ STRONG PASS	
④ STANDARD PASS	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

The new GCSE grading system ranges from Grade 1 to Grade 9 with 9 being the highest grade which is above the previous A* grade. This highest grade is for “exceptional performance” and is equivalent to current good A level standard.

Currently sixth form colleges are considering a Grade 4 to be the equivalent to a standard C grade. However some sixth form colleges are expecting students to gain Grade 5 (a strong pass) in order to satisfy the A level entry requirements.

The assessments in the new GCSE courses are mainly by exams at the end of Year 11 and the content is considered to be more demanding.

Preparing our students for the demands of the new GCSE specifications

It is important that our students understand that Years 7 – 9 are extremely important in preparing the foundations for the new GCSE courses.

We want each individual to be able to track his/her own progress from Year 7 through to Year 11. We want our teachers to be able to monitor each child's progress and intervene where progress is below expectation. We want to provide our parents and carers with assessment information which enables them to track their child's progress through high school.

In order to achieve the above goals we have developed a new grading system which was first introduced in January 2017.

Our New Grading System

On entry to the school we look at the scaled scores which each child achieves at the end of Year 6. This enables us to create personalised targets each child on entry and right through to GCSE.

In Years 7 -9 students are regularly assessed and progress towards targets is tracked by subject teachers. Each term parents receive a Grade Card/Report where each teacher gives a grade for the student's current attainment at that time. This grade will be shown against their end of year target, so a clear picture can be given about whether or not they are on track.

Students have formal examinations in English, Maths and Science to monitor exam performance.

In Years 10 & 11 students are also regularly assessed and progress towards targets is tracked by subject teachers. Parents receive a Grade Card/Report each term which will identify whether your child is on track to meet his/her GCSE target grade. In Year 10 and 11 students will have formal examinations in all subjects to prepare for the final GCSE examinations.