

## Grading system by year group

<b>Current Year 10</b>	'New' style GCSE's for English Lang, Lit and Maths. Grades will be numbers 9-1.
<b>Examination year: 2017</b>	'Old' style GCSE for other subjects. Grades will be letters A*-G.
<b>Current Year 9</b>	'New' style GCSE for most subjects. Grades will be numbers 9-1.
<b>Examination year: 2018</b>	'Old' style GCSE for Business Studies, Design & Technology, Media Studies. Grades will be letters A*-G.
<b>Current Year 8</b>	'New' style GCSE for all subjects. Grades will be numbers 9-1.
<b>Examination year: 2019</b>	
<b>Current Year 7</b>	'New' style GCSE for all subjects. Grades will be numbers 9-1.
<b>Examination year: 2020</b>	

Students will be reported on in GCSE grades from the beginning of their time at the academy enabling a clear progression through to GCSE.

The numbers that students receive as a final GCSE grade are equivalent to the GCSE grades being used currently. These can be seen in the table below:

Old NC Levels	Legacy GCSE Grades	New GCSE Grades
	A*	9
	A	8
		7
8	B	6
7	C	5 (new 'pass')
		4
6	D	3
5	E	2
4	F	1
3	G	P3
		P2
		P1

We know that changes to exams can be very complicated for all concerned. There are many places that you can get further information from. We have listed these below:

- Teachers/tutors at the Academy can explain all changes
- The exams regulator, Ofqual. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>
- All the different exam board websites such as AQA, EDEXCEL, OCR etc.
- The Department for Education <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform>
- Attending one of the presentations during a parents evening.

We are always willing to help and offer advice, and if you are unsure about anything contained in this leaflet please contact Mr Newton in the first instance.



## A Student and Parent Guide to GCSE Changes

## GCSE Reforms

The Government is introducing the new GCSEs with the aim of increasing both their rigour and revising the content.

These reforms are being rolled out over the next few years and the first wave of subjects is already being taught to year 10.

By September 2017 all current GCSE subjects will have either been replaced by a new style GCSE or discontinued. Some subjects may choose to run BTEC qualifications if they are more appropriate for that particular subject.

The effect of this will be a change in the curriculum for both KS4 and KS3 as the demands of these new GCSE's becomes clear.



## Key Changes

Some of the key changes are as follows:

- All course assessment will now be at the end of the Y11. There will be no more modular examinations and there will be restrictions on which exams students can take early.
- Exams will form 100% of the assessment in most subjects. Coursework and controlled assessments will cease in most subjects.
- There will be a new grading scale which uses numbers instead of letters. The scale will be from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest.
- They are designed to be more challenging and demanding. This will be evident in the increased content, the length and number of examinations and the style of questions.

It is therefore, vital that we work in partnership to ensure that when asked to revise and prepare for these assessments as part of their homework, students do so diligently. In order to help students develop the habit of working at home please check Show My Homework regularly and ensure the work set is completed to a good standard.

## Combination of 'old' and 'new'

As the changes are introduced year on year, there will be a 'mixed economy' for a period of time between different subjects; so pupils will be doing a combination of old and new GCSEs for different subjects at different points in time.

See below for information which summarises the phases

### GCSE reform timeframe

For Examination	Reformed Subjects
Wave 1 June 2017	English Language English Literature Mathematics
Wave 2 June 2018	Sciences Geography History Modern Foreign Languages Art & Design Computer Science Physical Education (PE) Religious Studies
Wave 3 June 2019	Business Studies Design & Technology Media Studies