



You may be aware that the government is in the process of changing the way GCSEs are to be graded in the future. This document outlines the changes that will be happening over the next few years.

This year all secondary and primary schools have been required to start teaching the new National Curriculum. As part of the reforms to the National Curriculum the system of 'levels' used to report children's attainment ended last summer.

The exams next summer (2016), which for English and Maths, will be taken by Year 10 & 11, will be the last time that all subjects are graded using the A*- G system. In 2017 the system begins to change. The present Year 10 will have their English and Mathematics graded using a new system of 1-9 points, whilst all other subjects will be graded using the old A*-G system. In 2018 the new grading system will be applied to all subjects; a 1 being the lowest and a 9 being the highest grade. The government has published the following guidance to help clarify the changes:

1. Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.
2. Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above.
3. For each exam, the top 20 per cent of those who get grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest performers.
4. The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.
5. Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current grade C and bottom third of the marks for a current grade B. This will mean it will be of greater demand than the present grade C, and broadly in line with what the best available evidence tells us is the average PISA performance in countries such as Finland, Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

What does this mean for our student's reports this year?

Y10 & 11 – All Year 10 & 11 subject reports will use the old A*-G system for grading attainment.

Y9 and below – All subjects will use the new 1-9 points system for grading attainment. Due to the changes in the grading and the loss of National Curriculum levels we will be changing the way that we assess our students. Previously we would expect to see a rise in National Curriculum levels as a student progressed through the school. Our new assessment system will assess if a student is 'on track' for an identified point score in Year 11. We will expect students to maintain a steady point score across the years.

A student assessed at 4 points in Year 7 will be expected to maintain that point score in Years 8-11, or to move to 5 points. The targets and points may not be the same in every subject or unit, but will depend on a student's aptitude and/or progress over time. However averages may be broadly similar which would reflect consistent progress in line with expectations.