

Where to go for more information

Contact the school

If you have any questions about the changes to KS3 assessment or about the new GCSEs and how this will affect your child, please speak to

Mr. S Peel.

Assistant Head (Achievement).

Rushcliffe School

“Everyone will be given the chance to shine brightly”

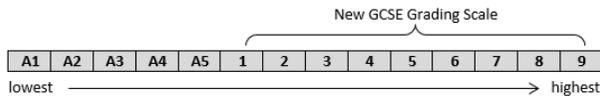
KS3 Assessment from September 2016



Background information:

In June 2013 the Government announced the abolition of National Curriculum levels within schools. In their place, schools have been encouraged to create their own assessment framework and to build this framework into their curriculum offer.

As a result, from September 2016, students will be assessed using a grading system based on the new GCSE grades. Students are on a linear pathway from Year 7 to Year 11. The grading will go from grade A1 (lowest) to grade 9 (highest). Due to the new grading system being based on the new GCSEs, it would be expected that some students will be working below a grade 1; where this is the case, students will be assessed on grades A5 to A1 until they are ready to progress onto the GCSE scale. Additionally, + will be used to indicate that a pupil is highly secure at a particular grade and approaching the next grade. – will be used to indicate that a pupil is not yet secure at a particular grade.



End of Year Target Grade – a target for each pupil's attainment at the end of the year has been set in each subject. This is based on a great deal of statistical information, and represents a challenging but realistic grade which should be achievable by the end of the year. It is possible for a pupil to achieve grades higher or lower than this target, and the target allows us to monitor whether pupils are on track.

Current Performance Grade – this is based on recent assessments, classwork and homework. It is recognised that this grade is likely to fluctuate over time as pupils' individual strengths and weaknesses will influence their achievement on different projects or topics.

End of Year Predicted Grade – is set by each pupil's class teacher, and is a prediction of the grade pupils will attain if they maintain their current rate of progress. When this is lower than the End of Year Target Grade, parents, pupils and teachers need to work closely to ensure support and guidance is in place.

Effort and Attitude to Learning - tells you how a pupil's behaviour is impacting upon their learning. The table below is what teachers use to guide their judgements about your child's behaviour for learning. When discussing behaviour for learning with your child, use these criteria as a guide.

Target - has been set by the class teacher and should be addressed by the pupil in the next module or piece of work, helping them to move up to the next level. It is important that these targets are recorded by pupils and parents so they can be a focus for your support over the coming term.

What are the key features of the new GCSEs?

The Department for Education (DfE) has made a number of changes to the characteristics of the new GCSEs.

Key features include:

- A new grading scale that uses the numbers 1 – 9 to replace the A* - G scale for identifying levels of performance
- 'Untiered' test papers in most subjects, where students will sit the same test papers at the same level regardless of ability. Some subjects, such as maths, will be tiered where untiered papers do not allow lower ability students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills or do not stretch the most able
- Students will be assessed at the end of the course and subject content will not be divided into modules.

- Assessment will be made by external exam, except where non-exam assessment is the only way to assess certain skills.

How is the new grading scale different?

The new GCSEs will be graded using the numbers 1 – 9, with 9 being the highest and 1 the lowest.

Where performance is below the minimum required to pass a GCSE, students will receive a U.

The chart below compares the new GCSE grading structure to the one currently used for the old 'legacy' GCSEs. For example, a C sits between a 4 and 5 in the new grading structure:

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

Source: New GCSE grading structure, GOV.UK - Ofqual