



September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to Assessment and Reporting

Recent changes to the National Curriculum have removed the expectation for schools to use levels at Key Stage 3 and there is a greater emphasis on progress towards GCSE outcomes over the whole of the secondary phase.

Your child will be sitting GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11 on the reformed GCSE's which will use grades 9-1 rather than the traditional A*-G grading. The Department for Education has published the following chart to allow parents, students and staff to make comparisons between the two systems:

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>4 = C and above and above</p> </div> <div style="font-size: 2em;">←</div> <div style="font-size: 2em;">→</div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above. ■ Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above. ■ The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G. 									
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 0 10px;"> A* A B C D E F G U </div>									
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE									

You can see that it is not directly comparable with the traditional system e.g. grade 9 is expected to be more challenging than the current A* and the grade C spans both grades 4 and 5 on the new grading structure.

In light of these changes, we will be assessing your child on an assessment pathway based on their Key Stage 2 (KS2) starting point. We have used KS2 data to calculate the most appropriate "flightpath" for your child.

For example, a student that has been put on assessment pathway 5 will be expected to achieve a grade 5 in all their GCSE subjects in Year 11.

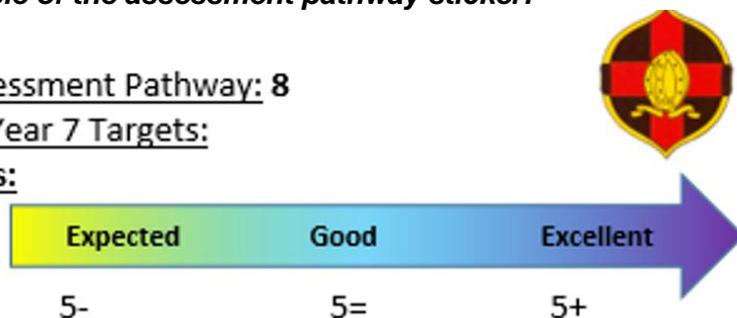
To ensure challenge and aspiration for all our students, each pathway will also have a "good" and "excellent" target. When students return in September they will be given an assessment pathway sticker which will be displayed on the front of their planners. This will inform them of their assessment pathway and the targets for "expected", "good" and "excellent" for the end of the academic year. An individual student will be on the same pathway for all subjects but will naturally progress at different rates across different subjects.

An example of the assessment pathway sticker:

My Assessment Pathway: 8

End of Year 7 Targets:

Progress:



We have calculated their expected progress at different points along a student's journey to GCSEs and will report to parents three times a year (as previously). On the new reports colour coding will inform you whether your child is below expected progress, at expected progress, making "good" progress or making "excellent" progress.



We continue to report Attitude to learning in the same way as previously.

Parent Information Evenings covering these changes will take place in South Hall at the following times:

- Year 7 – all parents from all form groups – Thursday 8 September at 6pm
- Year 8 – parents from Roman and Hunter form groups – Thursday 8 September at 6pm
- Year 8 – parents from Quinlan and Becket form groups – Thursday 15 September at 6pm
- Year 9 – all parents from all form groups – Thursday 15 September at 6pm

In the meanwhile should you have any immediate questions please contact me at jpeacock@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Mr John Peacock
Assistant Headteacher