



Eden Girls

A New Grading System

Information Leaflet for Parents

October 2016

Summary

Over the next few years, the Government is introducing new GCSE courses that all students must complete. These GCSE courses will have much more content and longer, tougher exams. They will also no longer be graded using the A*-G system. Instead, a new system of grading with numbers will be used.

In addition, the Government is making it harder to achieve a 'good pass' – so, students will need to get more marks to achieve the new Grade '5' – which replaces the old Grade 'C'.

As a result of these changes to GCSEs, we are introducing a new grading system for all students – from Year 7 to Year 11. These new grades will have Grade '9' as the highest grade and Grade '1' as the lowest grade. The new grades will be used to:

- Set targets for all students in every subject.
- Assess and grade their work in class, for homework and in regular tests.
- Report on their progress in the report cards we send to you every half-term.

This booklet explains what the new grades mean so that you can better understand the changes and help your child to achieve the best possible results when they sit the new GCSEs in the coming years.

If you have any questions about the new GCSE courses, or the way that your child's progress will now be assessed and graded, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Karim Murcia
Principal

Why is our grading system changing?

We are changing the way that we measure our students' progress with a new grading system. This is because the Government is introducing new GCSE courses which will have more content and longer, tougher exams. These exams will no longer be graded using the A*-G system. Instead, they will be assessed using a new system of grading with numbers (from '9' as the highest to '1', which is the lowest grade). In addition, the Government is making it harder to achieve a 'good pass' – so, students will need to get more marks to achieve the new Grade '5' than they did for the old Grade 'C'.

Not all GCSE subjects are being changed at the same time. The timeline is as follows:

When?	New GCSE exams (with grades 9-1) are assessed for the first time...
Summer 2017	GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics
Summer 2018	GCSEs in Science, History, Geography, French, Religious Studies, Citizenship, Art, and Computer Science.

As all of our students are in years 7, 8 or 9 they will be assessed on the new GCSE courses in all subjects.

As a result of these changes to GCSEs, we are introducing a new grading system for all students – from Year 7 to Year 11.

How will GCSEs now be assessed?

Over the next few years, new GCSE courses will be introduced by the Government. These GCSEs will be assessed using a new 9-1 grading system.

These new 9-1 grades compare with the 'old' A*-G in the following way:

New GCSE Grading		Old GCSE Grading
9	Grade 9 is a high A*.	A*
8	Grade 8 is low A* or high A.	
7	Grade 7 is a low or mid A.	A
6	Grade 6 is a high B.	B
5	Grade 5 is a low B or high C. This is the minimum grade for a 'good pass'.	
4	Grade 4 is a low or mid C.	C
3	Grade 3 is a D or high E.	D
2	Grade 2 is a low E or high F.	E
1	Grade 1 is a low F or G.	F, G

What grade does a student need in the new GCSEs?

To match our country's GCSEs with the best education systems in the world, the Government has raised expectations of what counts as a 'good pass'. In the new GCSEs:

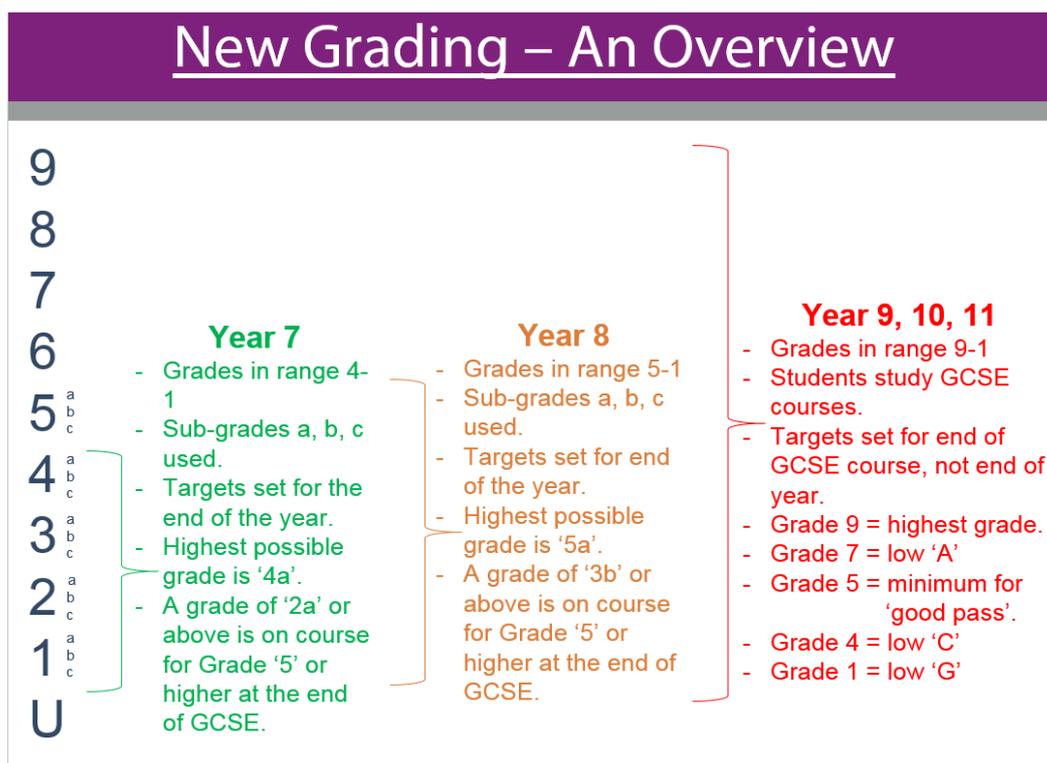
- A grade '5' is needed to achieve a 'good pass'. Students who previously achieved a low grade 'C' would only receive a Grade '4' in the new system, so this means that it will be harder for students to achieve a 'good pass' in the new GCSEs. As a result, the number of students nationally who achieve a 'good pass' is expected to drop. At our school, we will be working hard so that all students can aim to achieve at least a grade '5' in their GCSEs.
- At least a grade '6' is needed if your child wishes to study A Level courses after their GCSEs. For some A Level courses, a grade '7' is needed.
- Only the very, very brightest students will get a Grade '9' in each subject.

How will the new grading system affect each year group?

As a result of the changes to GCSEs, we are doing things differently to ensure that all students have a good chance of success. In each subject, we are changing:

- How we set targets.
- What and how we teach.
- How we test the progress that your child has made.
- How we report the progress to you every half-term.

In particular, we are also introducing a new single grading system for all students – from Year 7 to Year 11. Please see the chart below and table on the next page for how the new single grading system applies in each year group.



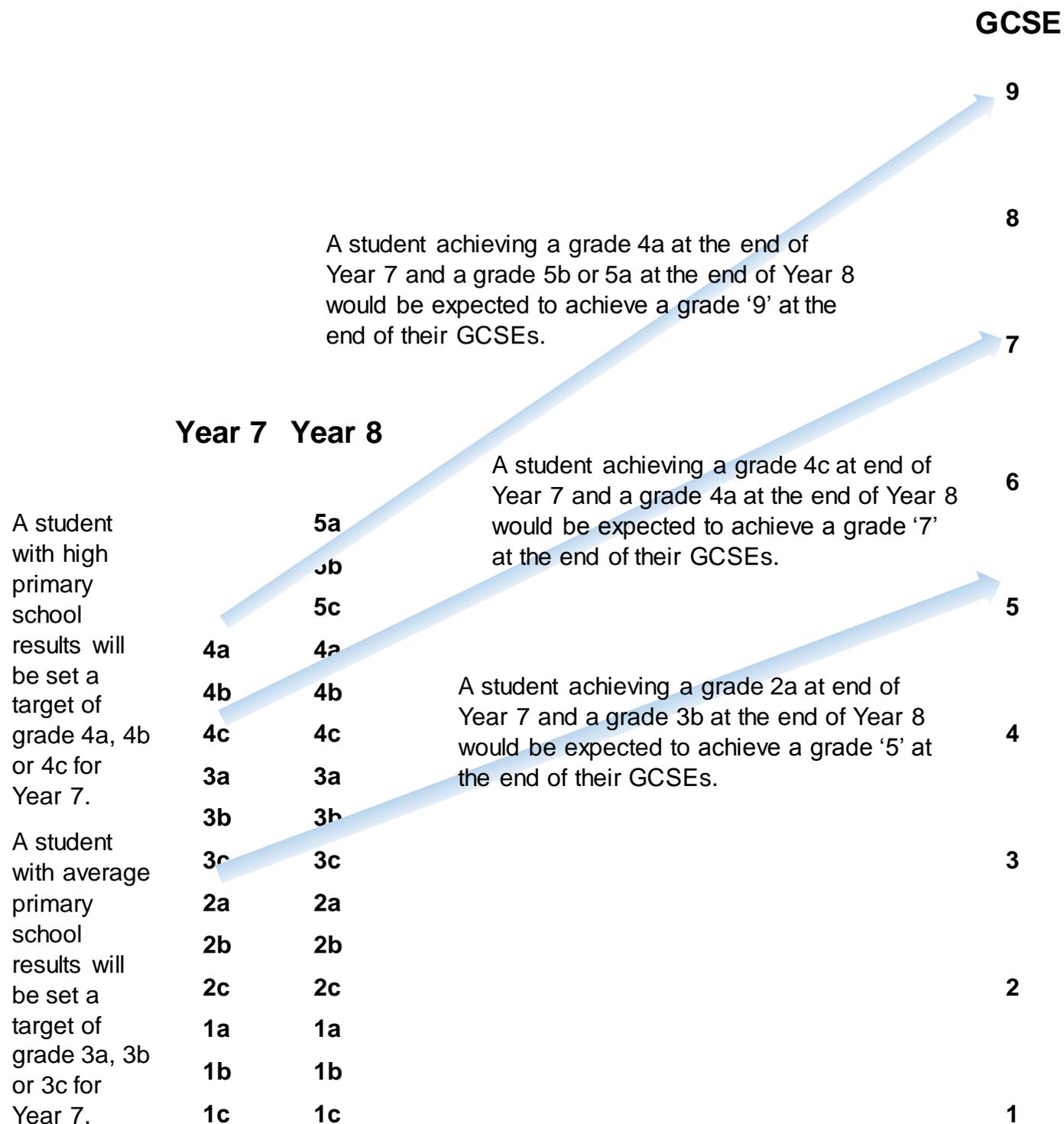
Year	How the Grading System Works
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-1 grades are used, but the highest grade that can be achieved is a Grade '4'. • Sub-grades a, b, c are used, so the highest possible grade in Year 7 is '4a' and the lowest is '1c'. • In each subject, a target is set for the end of the year. • For each subject, the half-termly report card will predict what the student will achieve at the end of the year. • At the end of Year 7, a student of average ability should achieve Grade '2a'. A student achieving a Grade '2a' is on course for a Grade '5' at the end of their GCSE. • At the end of Year 7, a student of high ability would achieve Grade '4c' or above.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-1 grades are used, but the highest grade that can be achieved is a Grade '5'. • Sub-grades a, b, c are used, so the highest possible grade in Year 8 is '5a' and the lowest is '1c'. • In each subject, a target is set for the end of the year. • For each subject, the half-termly report card will predict what the student will achieve at the end of the year. • At the end of Year 8, a student of average ability should achieve Grade '3b'. A student achieving a Grade '3b' is on course for a Grade '5' at the end of their GCSE. • At the end of Year 8, a student of high ability would achieve Grade '4a' or above.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9-1 grades are used – the highest possible grade is a Grade '9' and the lowest is a Grade '1'. Sub-grades (a, b, c) are not used. • Students will start each of their GCSE courses in Year 9. • In each subject, a target is set for the end of the GCSE course. • For each subject, the half-termly report card will predict what the student will achieve at the end of the GCSE course. • A Grade '5' is the minimum grade needed for a 'good pass'. • A Grade '6' is the minimum grade needed to study A Levels. Some A Level subjects may need a Grade '7'.

What grade is expected at the end of each year?

Based on their primary school results, progress in the previous year and overall ability level, your child will be set a challenging target for each subject at the start of the year.

- Students in Year 7 and Year 8 will be set targets for the end of the year.
- Students in Year 9, 10 and 11 will be set targets for the end of the GCSE course.

The chart below shows how a student should progress during Year 7 and Year 8 – to achieve success in their GCSEs.



How will my child's progress be reported during the year?

During the year, your child will complete regular tests in each of their subjects. These tests will help the teacher to predict the grade they will achieve at the end of the year (or at the end of the GCSE course if your child is in Year 9).

At the start of each half-term, we will send a report card home. For each subject, the report card will show:

- **The target grade** - this is the grade your child should aim to achieve in the subject by the end of the year (or end of the GCSE course if they are in Year 9).
- **The predicted grade** – this is the grade your child's teacher thinks they will achieve in the subject at the end of the year (or at end of the GCSE course if they are in Year 9), based on their current progress.

These grades will use the new 9-1 grading system.

What do I do if I have any questions about the new grading system?

If you have any questions about our new grading system, or your child's targets, please do not hesitate to contact us.

You can do so by calling the school, sending an email, attending the next parents' evening or completing the form below and returning it to the school with your child.

Your Name:	
Contact Tel No:	
Contact Email:	
Name of Child:	
Form Class:	
Questions/Queries:	



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