

Assessment at Staffordshire University Academy

In September 2014 the government removed National Curriculum levels as an assessment tool for schools. The Department of Education (DfE) stated that from September 2014 schools should 'develop their own means of assessing pupils' progress towards end of key stage expectations' (March 2014). At the same time the government has also changed how GCSE exams will be graded from 2016, with new GCSE courses grading students from 1- 9, instead of the traditional grades A*- G.

Due to national changes, a new assessment system will be in place at the Academy from September 2015. We will introduce a new KS3 levelling system to track student progress. This will be based on new GCSE number grades 1 – 9 (9 being the highest) and three foundation grades F1 – F3 below this (F3 being the highest).

KS4 will continue to include a mixture of old letter grades A*-G and new GCSE number grades 1- 9, depending on whether the course is an old or new GCSE course.

Autumn Term 2015

Year 11	These students will be following the old GCSE specifications for all subjects. This means that their grades / targets will be based on the traditional GCSE grades (A* - G)
Year 10	These students will be following the old GCSE specifications for all subjects other than English and maths This means that their grades / targets for these subjects will be based on the traditional GCSE grades (A* - G) However, new GCSE specifications will be in place for English and maths and so students will also have new numerical grades / targets (1 – 9) for these subjects
Year 7, 8 & 9	KS3 students will be given targets that will help them achieve challenging GCSE grades at the end of KS4. These target grades will be based on the new GCSE numerical grades (1-9). Their target grade will be based on the levels they achieve at KS2

The new system will be regularly reviewed, which will allow us to refine assessments and targets. The assessment flight plan (below), will show rough equivalencies between the old and new systems. You will see that we will be using + and – with the new number grades to help students and teachers to communicate clearly whether they are close to the next grade. The assessment flight plan also identifies the minimum targets for each year in KS3 and the final grade they should attain at the end of KS4 (based upon their KS2 starting point).

KS2 Starting point	Old KS4 GCSE Target (based upon their KS2 results)	New KS4 Number Grade Target		Target grade for the end of Y7	Target grade for the end of Y8	Target grade for the end of Y9		End of KS4 Target Grade
6a	A*	9	+	5	6	7		9
			=					
			-					
6b -6c	A*	8	+	4	5	6		8
			=					
			-					
5a- 5b	A	7	+	4-	5-	5+		7/7+
			=					
			-					
5c	A/B	6	+	3+	4	5		6/6+
			=					
			-					
4a - 4b	C+/B	5	+	2	3	4		5
			=					
			-					
4c	C -	4	+	1	2	3		4 +
			=					
			-					
3a	D	3	+	F3	1	2		3+
			=					
			-					
3b – 3c	E, D	2 / 3	+	F2	F3	1		3
			=					
			-					
Below level 3	F,G	1	+	F1	F2	F3		2
			=					
			-					

For further information about the schools assessment programme please see the Assessment for Learning policy.