



Wickersley School &
Sports College



Assessment is Changing

What do I need to know?





The New Grading System

Over the last few years, the new and reformed GCSEs have become more rigorous; most will now be assessed at the end of Y11 with linear exams.

As shown in the table below, GCSE grades have gradually changed from letters to numbers. English and Maths were the first to change in 2015 (results awarded in summer 2017) followed by all other subjects during the subsequent two years. From summer 2019 onwards all GCSEs will be awarded using grades 1 to 9.

The old A* to G system does not directly mirror the new system. The new grade 4 is the bottom of a grade C and the top of the grade C is a new grade 5. On the current system a grade C is considered a good pass. However, on the new scale a grade 5 is considered a strong pass and a grade 4 is classed as a standard pass. It is expected that a grade 4 or above will be the benchmark many colleges and sixth form providers will set for their entry policy. However some may ask for a grade 5 for certain courses.

New Grading Structure	Current Grading Structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5 Strong Pass	C
4 Standard Pass	D
3	E
2	F
1	G
U	U



Reformed Subjects

GCSEs

GCSEs

All the reformed GCSEs will now be assessed on the 1-9 scale with 9 being the highest. Some reformed subjects are classed as tech awards and are graded slightly different an example is shown in the table opposite.

New Tech Awards Grading Structure	Old GCSE Grading Equivalent
Level 2 Distinction*	A*
Level 2 Distinction	A
Level 2 Merit	B
Level 2 Pass	C
Level 1 Pass	F





Life after Levels

How we are managing the change

9⁺

8⁺

7⁺

6⁺

5⁺

4⁺

3⁺

2⁺

1⁺

W3⁺

W2⁺

W1⁺

Throughout your child's time in school, you will have become familiar with the term 'levels'. The government has made the decision to abolish levels throughout primary and secondary schools in England and Wales: this allows schools and teachers the freedom to assess children using their own grading systems. We have decided all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will now be assessed on the new scale of 1 to 9 with 9 being the highest. This is based upon the new GCSE grading system.

Each grade will also be split into three subgrades, for example 5+, 5, 5-. A 5+ would mean they are at the top of a grade 5; a 5 would mean they are secure at a grade 5 and a 5- would mean they are just moving into a grade 5.

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 'working towards' grades (W1, W2, W3) until they are ready to progress onto the GCSE scale. These will also be sub-divided into three grades as discussed above.



Key Stage 2

In Year 6, pupils will have sat externally marked SATs in both Maths and English. These will no longer be reported in National Curriculum Levels: from July 2016, these results have been reported to schools as a score. Students will be given a standardised score between 80 and 120. Those students achieving 100 or above are classified as achieving the expected standard (AS). Those scoring below 100 are classified as not achieving the expected standard (NS).

Secondary schools receive this information in July. We will use this information, along with our own assessments, to set pupils accordingly so we can ensure they are able to build on their progress at KS3 and beyond.



Progress Trackers

Pupil flight paths

In order to set aspirational targets for each child, we look closely at KS2 assessment information as well as our own assessments.

Subsequently each child will be placed on a flight path outlining the expected progress they should make throughout their 5 years at Wickersley. Each flight path is bespoke to the student for every subject, as we believe that students make progress at different rates. You will receive a flight path progress tracker for English, Maths and Science at every data collection.





Grade Descriptors

How will you be able to support your child's progress?

Each child will have subject grade descriptors in their books and folders; they will use these when assessing their progress in school and also to help them identify what skills they need to practice to achieve the next grade. The subject grade descriptors are also available to parents on the school website under the curriculum and subject tab.

In addition to these, throughout the year you will receive 3 progress reports and a parent's evening all of which will support you in keeping track of your child's progress in all of their subjects.



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