

GCSE assessment reforms from 2015 onwards

GCSEs are being reformed with the new specifications being taught from September 2015 onwards.

The new GCSEs are linear courses with assessment predominantly by external exam at the end of Year 11. They will be will also be graded differently (from 9-1 rather than A*-G).

In the new grading system a grade 4 will roughly be aligned with a grade C and a grade 7 will roughly be aligned to a grade A.

In the short term we will report pupil's current working grade with both numerical and letter grades e.g. Grade 2 (E), Grade 4 (C) or Grade 8 (A/A*).

More information about the grading system is available from the GOV.UK website:

[Click here](#)

Not all reformed GCSEs will begin being taught at the same time. The timeline for the changes is given below:

2015-16

Year 10	<p>Pupils begin new 9-1 GCSEs in: English Language, English Literature and Mathematics</p> <p>Students begin old (A*-G) GCSE courses in all other subjects.</p>
Year 11	Pupils complete their GCSE courses (no changes)

2016-17

Year 10	<p>Pupils begin new 9-1 GCSEs in:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">English Language</td> <td>Art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>English Literature</td> <td>Photography</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mathematics</td> <td>Computing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biology</td> <td>History</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chemistry</td> <td>Geography</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physics</td> <td>Languages (except Italian)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double Science</td> <td>Music</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical Education</td> <td>Religion, Philosophy & Ethics</td> </tr> </table> <p>Pupils begin old (A*-G) GCSE courses in: Design & Technology Italian</p>	English Language	Art	English Literature	Photography	Mathematics	Computing	Biology	History	Chemistry	Geography	Physics	Languages (except Italian)	Double Science	Music	Physical Education	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics
English Language	Art																
English Literature	Photography																
Mathematics	Computing																
Biology	History																
Chemistry	Geography																
Physics	Languages (except Italian)																
Double Science	Music																
Physical Education	Religion, Philosophy & Ethics																
Year 11	<p>Pupils complete new 9-1 GCSEs in: English Language, English Literature and Mathematics</p> <p>Pupils complete old (A*-G) GCSE courses in all other subjects</p>																

2017-18

Year 10	Pupils begin new 9-1 GCSEs in all subjects.
Year 11	Pupils complete new 9-1 GCSEs in all subjects except Design & Technology and Italian. Pupils complete old (A*-G) GCSE courses in Design & Technology and Italian.

2018-19

Year 10	Pupils begin new 9-1 GCSEs in all subjects.
Year 11	Pupils complete new 9-1 GCSEs in all subjects.

More information about GCSE reform is also available from the GOV.UK website:

[Click here](#)

This means that over the next few years students will be studying GCSEs assessed in two different ways at the same time.

We realise that parents will have questions and concerns about the new GCSE qualifications. To help address this issue, Parent Information Evenings will be run at the start of GCSE courses in Year 10 to provide as much detail as possible.