

THIS LETTER IS INFORMATION AIMED PRIMARILY AT YEAR 9 TO YEAR 11 PARENTS

17 October 2016

For the attention of the Parent/Carer

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Grade Changes

As you may be aware, the Department for Education has been implementing GCSE reforms for the last few years. It is redeveloping all of the existing GCSE's to make them more rigorous and to fall in line with international standards.

The main changes that will impact on your child are as follows:

- Newly-reformed GCSE's are now graded 9-1 with 9 being the highest grade
- Most subjects are now completely linear and exam based with no coursework
- The 'good pass' has now changed from a C grade to a 5. This is broadly in line with a B grade in the old GCSE's. This, in particular, will have implications for students wishing to continue into Sixth Form or go to university, as, in future years they may be required to have the grade 5 (B) to access certain qualifications.

I have included two tables with this letter. Figure 1 shows the impact on each year group with regards to grading, course work (CW) and controlled assessment (CA). Figure 2 shows broadly how the new 9-1 grades compare to A*-G. BTEC subjects are still graded with Pass, Merit and Distinction.

We appreciate some of you may have questions or concerns about this so we are holding an information evening on Thursday, 3 November at 6.00pm in the school hall. I will give a short presentation and then there will be time for questions. Also in attendance will be Mr Panesar, Headteacher, and Mr Hawkins, who is in charge of the GCSE options process. Tea and coffee will be available.

If you wish to attend, could you please complete and return the reply slip to the school's main reception office by **Monday, 31 October** so that we can cater for the correct number of parents/carers. There is also room on the slip to write any immediate questions you have, so we can make sure they are answered on the night.

If you are not able to attend, but have some specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Peter Forsey
Assistant Headteacher

Figure 1

Subject	Year of exams					
	2017 (Y11)		2018 (Y10)		2019 and beyond (Y9)	
	Grade	CW/CA	Grade	CW/CA	Grade	CW/CA
Art GCSE	A*-G	CW	9-1	CW	9-1	CW
Business GCSE	A*-G	CA	A*-G	CA	9-1	No
Food Preparation GCSE	A*-G	CA	9-1	CA	9-1	CA
Computer Science GCSE	A*-G	CA	9-1	CA		
Dance GCSE	A*-G	No				
Drama GCSE	A*-G	CA	9-1	CW	9-1	CW
English Language GCSE	9-1	No	9-1	No	9-1	No
English Literature GCSE	9-1	No	9-1	No	9-1	No
French GCSE	A*-G	CA	9-1	No	9-1	No
Geography GCSE	A*-G	CA	9-1	No	9-1	No
Health and Social Care GCSE	A*-G	CA	A*-G	CA		
History GCSE	A*-G	CA	9-1	No	9-1	No
Maths GCSE	9-1	No	9-1	No	9-1	No
Religious Education GCSE			9-1	No	9-1	No
Science GCSE	A*-G	CA	9-1	No	9-1	No
Spanish GCSE	A*-G	CA	9-1	No	9-1	No

Figure 2

New GCSE	Old GCSE
9	New grade
8	A*
7	A
6	A
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E & F
1	G

Year 9-11 GCSE Reform Information Evening
Thursday, 3 November at 6.00pm

Child's Name: _____

Form: _____

I will / will not be attending the information evening on Thursday, 3 November at 6.00pm for a short presentation about the curriculum.

These are the specific questions I would like answered are:

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____