

21st October 2015

PLE/KC/W/10/211015

Dear Parents,

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you of some significant changes that have been made by the government to GCSEs and highlight how this may impact on the way in which we communicate to you about performance and progress.

Introduction of new GCSEs

New style GCSEs have been introduced in Mathematics, English Language and Literature. These will run alongside the old style GCSEs and BTECs that are being taught in all other subjects.

New GCSE grading

The new style GCSEs will be graded using numbers from 9 to 1 rather than using letters from A* to G. A grade 9 will be the highest award and a grade 1 will be the lowest. The Department for Education have also indicated that a grade 5 will now be regarded as a 'good pass' (this will be slightly higher than the old 'C' grade and represents a 'raising of the bar' by the government). When we communicate to you about performance in Mathematics, English Language and Literature we will use numeric grades 9 to 1.

All other GCSEs will now be graded 8 to 1, these grades map across perfectly to A* to G. Although the grading system has changed for the issuing of certificates, for the purpose of our communication to you we will keep using the old style letters to indicate performance and progress. In short, the certificates that students receive will show a number from 8 to 1 but we will continue to use the grades A* to G.

The table below summarises this transition:

GCSE	'Good Pass'				'Pass'				
What we report to you (Old style GCSE)	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
What will appear on the certificate (Old style GCSE)	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
New style GCSE (Maths & Eng. Lang/Lit)	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Cont.

Target Setting

We have also reviewed the way we set targets. We are now using data that has been analysed and stored by the Fischer Family Trust to help inform our target setting procedures rather than just using Key Stage Two data. FFT take into account more contextual information about your child and the subjects they are studying to help produce more accurate predictions, therefore you may find their target may have changed.

If there are any concerns over any of this information please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Leaver', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr P. Leaver
Assistant Headteacher