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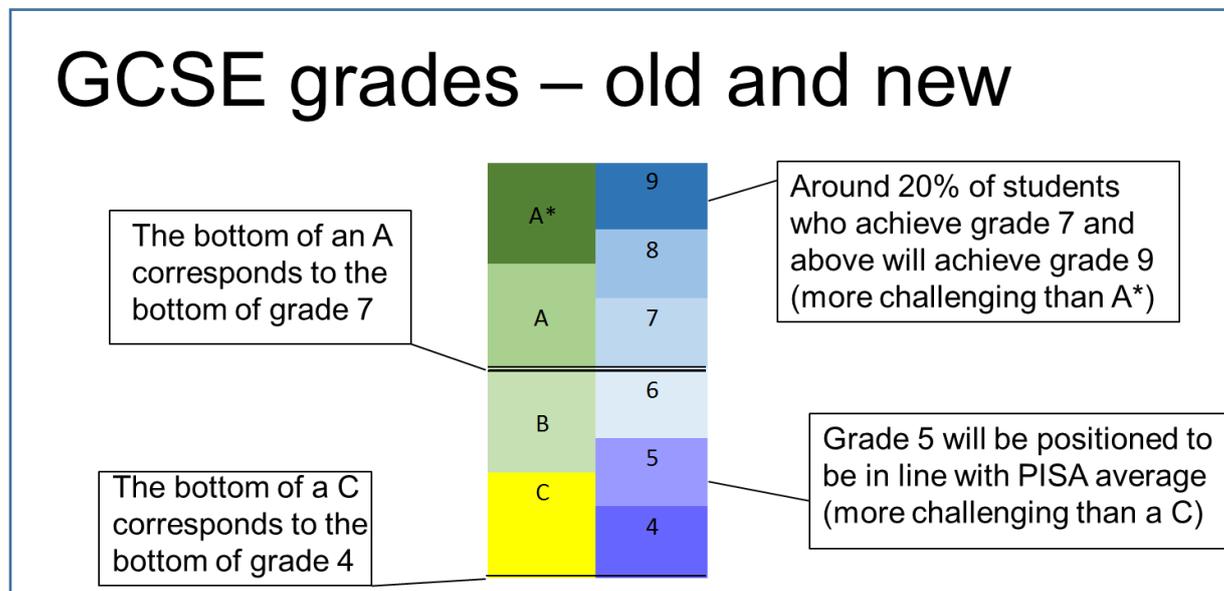
December 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

Key Stage 3 Assessment

As you may be aware, there has been a reform of all GCSE courses over the past few years. The reason for this letter is to explain the way we set targets and assess student progress at Aylesbury Grammar School at Key Stage 3 to take account of these changes.

The new GCSEs have a new grading system such that GCSEs are no longer be graded using the familiar letter grades (A* to G) but using numerical grades (9 – 1). The diagram below shows a comparison of the old grades with the new grades which we hope you will find helpful.



The way in which we set targets and assess progress throughout Key Stage 3 will remain as last year with the use of the new GCSE grading system, but a full description of that process is outlined below for the benefit of parents of students new to the school.

We set targets for students in Key Stage 3 which correspond to these new GCSE grades. Setting appropriate targets will continue to be supported by both teacher input and use of the Midyis (Middle Years Information System) test results which students sat near the start of Year 7. This is a non-subject specific test which is provided by CEM (Centre for Evaluating and Monitoring) and does not require any preparation on behalf of the students. Students will then be assessed three times a year against those targets in order to track their progress allowing us to celebrate excellent achievement and to offer support to students where expected progress is not being made.

It is important to recognise that it is not possible to accurately predict GCSE grades for students in Key Stage 3. As such these targets do not represent GCSE targets but a target for the end of their current academic year. Clear criteria will be provided to students to give them an understanding of what they would need to achieve in order to gain a particular grade by the end of the year.

Key Stage 3 reports will therefore include targets ranging from 9 - 4 and assessment grades ranging from 9 - 1 (for Year 7 students, these grades will only appear for Maths, English and Science in the Autumn report and then for all subjects in the Spring report). Students in all years will continue to have additional grades on all reports which reflect their attitude to learning and the quality of their home learning.

A worked example is laid out below to give greater detail on the above.

As always please do contact your son's subject teacher should you have any concerns regarding your son's progress in a particular area or your son's tutor or Head of Year for wider concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

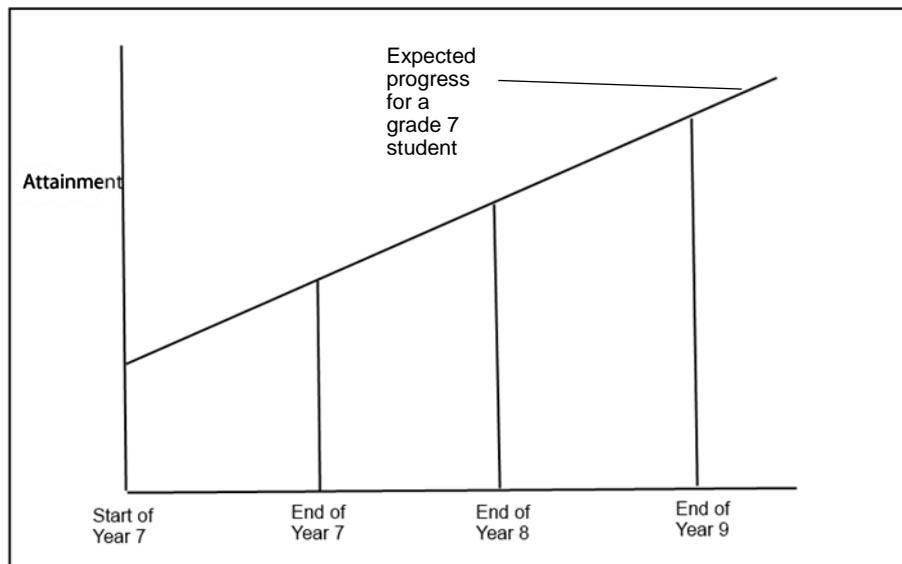
Yours sincerely

K Smith

Assistant Head

Aylesbury Grammar School

Assessing Progress through Key Stage 3 at AGS – an Example



- Information from the Midyis test taken at the start of Year 7 and teacher judgment have been used to generate a target of a grade 7.
- The line shows the anticipated progress of that student in one subject as he moves through Key Stage 3 – the target will remain a 7 throughout Years 7 – 9, but the student will need to achieve significantly more in successive years to hit that target.
- Criteria will be provided to the student so that he knows what he needs to achieve to hit a target by the end of each year
- If the class teacher feels the student is moving along this anticipated line of progress through the year he will be given a grade 7, in line with the target, on each report
- If the class teacher feels the student is making progress significantly above that which is anticipated, he will be given a grade 8 or 9
- If the class teacher feels the student is making less progress than anticipated, a grade lower than a 7 (6, 5 etc) will be given on the report