

16th July 2021

Richard Brand: Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

On Tuesday 20th July, students will be collecting their end of year reports. We have amended our reporting format and all further reports next academic year will also follow this same template. The reasoning behind this is twofold:

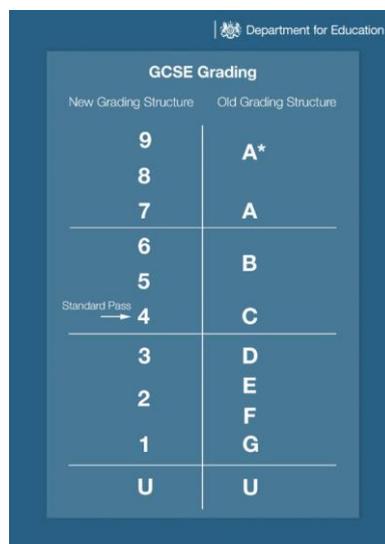
- To promote student ownership over their progress and to ensure data transparency between students, parents/carers and teachers so that for those students who require some extra challenge, or for those that would benefit from some targeted, high impact intervention, these can be put in place as early as possible
- It also ensures that the language of assessments and progress are the same from Y7 up to Y11 to ensure consistency during your child's academic journey here at The Dean Academy.

To summarise the structure of this new data reporting format:

1. Minimum Expected Grade (M.E.G)

This uses GCSE grading criteria of 1-9 (with grade 9 being the highest) and these are derived based upon a combination of information we have from students' key stage 2 scaled score outcomes (where available) and the Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) that were sat in Year 7. These are used as generally accurate indicators of a student's capability at GCSE level; however, it is important to emphasise that these M.E.Gs are the MINIMUM of where we would expect a student to be at the end of Year 11 and are by no means a ceiling on what your son/daughter can achieve – we will work with all students to ensure that they reach their academic potential regardless of prior attainment.

We understand that with the changes to the GCSE grading system a few years ago this terminology may be new to some of our parents/carers, so please find below an outline of how the new grades relate to the "old" GCSE grading terminology:



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

2. Effort

This is recorded as “Excellent, Good, Needs Improvement or Unacceptable” and the criteria for these comments are outlined below.

Excellent	Always tries her/his best, works hard, is attentive and contributes well, homework completed on time and to a high standard.
Good	Often works hard and makes contributions, sometimes attention slips, homework mostly completed on time and to a reasonably high standard.
Needs Improvement	Can work and contribute, though can be off task and homework often is late and lacks attention to detail. Needs to pay more attention and make more focused contributions.
Unacceptable	Makes little or no effort, requiring close supervision for any work to be done. Homework is rarely handed in on time, sometimes not at all and when it is done can be of poor quality. Makes little or no contribution in class. Progress is severely affected by lack of effort.

3. Projected Attainment Band

This represents what we expect your son/daughter to achieve in each of their subject areas by the end of Year 11 if they continue to work and learn in the same way. This projection is based upon a combination of the End of Year exams that were completed in many subjects alongside performance in other assessments (including class work and homework) that have been completed across the course of this academic year. Due to the fact that Year 11 is still a long way off, rather than make specific fine grade projections we have grouped the grades into bands that we feel best reflect the progress that your son/daughter is on track for given the current evidence that we have, for example 5 – 6 denotes a forecast of between a grade 5 and 6.

We understand that given the nature of these new reports there may be some questions so if you do have any questions or queries regarding your child’s report please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Rowlands (hannah.rowlands@thedeanacademy.org).

We thank you for working with us in what has been a challenging year for all, in order to support your child in making the progress to achieve their potential and wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely



Richard Brand
Head Teacher



Hannah Rowlands
Assistant Headteacher

