

The Norton Knatchbull School

Explanation of Student Monitoring Report Grades for Year 9,10 & 11 Academic Year 2017/18

End of key stage **target grades** indicate the potential your son has in each of his subjects. In years 9,10 and 11 all subjects have GCSE targets (ie end of key stage 4 targets). All targets are challenging and are personalised based on each individual student's prior attainment. Key Stage 2 (Year 6) prior attainment data is used to calculate their targets.

Targets are developed from national data sets provided by the Department for Education. Clearly, targets are merely a statistical indication of potential, and should not be interpreted as promises (hard work is required to achieve them!) or a ceiling (there are many students each year who exceed their target grades). They are, however, useful as indicators to see how your child is currently achieving when compared with his potential.

New GCSE Grades

Targets have been issued using the new GCSE grading system as when students receive their GCSE results, the new grading system of 9-1 will be used. Using this system grade 9 is the highest grade.

Students studying Combined Science at GCSE have been issued with two grades as their target, to reflect that fact that two grades will be awarded on completion of their GCSE studies.

Currently, the national landscape in education is going through a period of significant change, eg with the introduction of the new GCSE grading system and new examination specifications being phased in over the next few years. As a result, we will be continuously monitoring and reviewing student targets as more national data becomes available.

Overleaf you will find a copy of a postcard prepared by Ofqual which sets out the new grades alongside the current GCSE grading structure.

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	D
1	
U	E
	F
	G
	U

Nine things you should know about 9 to 1 GCSE grades

- 9 GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.
- 8 New GCSE content will be more challenging.
- 7 Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A*s.
- 6 English language, English literature and maths will be the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017.
- 5 Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.
- 4 The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.
- 3 In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, broadly the same proportion of students will get grades 1, 4 and 7 and above as would have got grades G, C and A and above respectively in the old system.
- 2 Regulators in Wales and Northern Ireland are not introducing the new 9 to 1 grading scale as part of the changes to GCSEs in their jurisdictions.
- 1 You can see how the 9 to 1 grades compare with the A* to G scale in the infographic on the right.



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The **current grade column** shows you how well your son is currently doing in each subject, and these grades will be given by teachers based on a variety of pieces of work including a formal end-of-unit assessment. In years 9 and 10, these grades will also be reported as GCSE grades using the new 9-1 structure.

The report will also show **projected grades**. These show the grades that staff feel your son is on track to achieve at GCSE level if he continues to work at the present rate. Projected grades will allow for a discussion with your son about the quality of “input” (i.e. attitude to learning and homework) versus “output” (i.e. the current grade and the projected grade). Clearly, if a student works consistently hard both in and out of lessons, he will be able to either meet or exceed his target grade.

The **current and projected grades** may include a plus (+) or a minus (-) sign. This sign provides an indication as to how secure the teacher considers the grade to be. An explanation is below:

- + indicates that the student has potential to get the next grade up
- no +/- sign indicates that the grade is secure
- indicates that there is a risk of the grade dropping to the grade below.

All reports will also contain an **ATL (attitude to learning) grade** for each subject. This grade indicates how well your son is participating in class, how well prepared he is for learning and how well he can work independently and with other students. A detailed explanation of these grades can be found on the next page.

It is reasonable to expect that if a student works well in class and outside class this will impact positively on his current grade and projected grade. Conversely, if a student is coasting (ATL grade 3) or actively distracting others/failing to be cooperative (ATL grade 4), we usually see a poor performance, often below his potential.

The **homework grades** reflect the quality of the homework your son is submitting and whether the work is handed in on time. A detailed explanation of homework grades can be found on the last page.

ATL (Attitude to Learning) Grade

ATL grades indicate how well a student participates in class, how well prepared he is for learning and how well he can work independently and with other students. Grades are awarded as follows:

Grade number	Colour	Grade	Explanation
1	Blue	Outstanding	Always follows the School's behaviour for learning rules and goes above and beyond in their approach to learning.
2	Green	Good	Follows the School's behaviour for learning rules and is fully prepared for lessons. Good behaviour contributes to successful learning. Routinely responds positively to the expectations of and guidance from staff.
3	Amber	Requires improvement	Inconsistent in following the School's behaviour for learning rules and being prepared for lessons. This impacts on own learning.
4	Red	Inadequate	The School's behaviour for learning rules are not followed. Time is often wasted by persistent low-level disruption which impacts on own learning and that of others.

Homework Grades

These grades reflect the quality of the homework the student is submitting and whether it is handed in on time. Grades are awarded as follows:

Grade number	Colour	Grade	Explanation
1	Blue	Outstanding	Homework is always completed and submitted on time. The quality of the work goes above and beyond the expectations set and the work is presented with care and accuracy.
2	Green	Good	Homework is completed and submitted on time and to the standard expected.
3	Amber	Requires improvement	There are inconsistencies with homework. It is not always submitted on time and/or not done to an appropriate standard.
4	Red	Inadequate	Homework is not completed or submitted on time.