

The Norton Knatchbull School
Explanation of Year 7 & 8 Monitoring Report Grades
Academic Year 2017/18

Target Grades

The **target grades** indicate the potential your son has in each of his subjects. Year 7 & 8 students have been issued with **end of year targets** using the new GCSE grades. The end of year targets are subject specific. All targets are challenging and are personalised based on each individual student's prior attainment at key stage 2. Currently, the national landscape in education is going through a period of significant change, e.g. 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.

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. 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	
3	D
2	
1	
U	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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Current Grades

Current grades show you how well your child 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. For year 7, the current grade will be given as a GCSE grade, using the new 9-1 scale. This grading system has been introduced in year 7 following the curriculum changes introduced by the Government. Where a 'pre-1' grade has been given, this indicates that the student is working towards a GCSE grade 1 and suggests that the student may have had little or no exposure to this subject in primary school.

The **current grades** may include a number and/or a plus (+) or 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 is 'mastering' the grade and has potential to get the next grade up;
- no +/- indicates that the grade is secure;
- indicates that the student is 'emerging' in this grade; however, there is a risk of the grade dropping to the grade below.

As a grammar school, we believe that the minimum grade our students are capable of achieving at GCSE is a grade 6. However, as the majority of our students come in with KS2 results that are significantly above the national average, we would expect them to achieve the top GCSE grades (grades 7-9). If your son achieves or exceeds his end of year targets, he will be on track to do so.

In English, we are exploring two separate subjects: English Language and English Literature. Between them, there are 12 assessment objectives and this means 12 different skill sets are required. We are unable to assess all assessment criteria all the time, so we focus on one or two skills a term. Your son's performance will vary according to the skill, therefore, we follow the school assessment policy and each reporting cycle sees an average grade taken over all the skills tested thus far. This is the fairest way of doing it as your son will be tested on all the assessment objectives in the exam at the end of the year.

ATL (Attitude to Learning) Grade

All reports will also contain an **ATL (attitude to learning) grade** for each subject. This grade indicates how well your child is participating in class, how well prepared he is for learning and how well he can work

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.

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 not following the School's behaviour for learning rules (ATL grade 3) or is actively distracting others/failing to be cooperative (ATL grade 4), we usually see a poor performance, often below his potential.

Homework Grades

The **homework grades** reflect the quality of the homework your son is submitting and whether the work is handed in on time.

Grades are awarded as follows:

Homework

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.