

Target Setting and Reporting of Progress in Key Stage 3

You are probably aware that the government has abolished the old system of using National Curriculum Levels to assess student progress. Consequently, all schools in England and Wales are now expected to devise their own system for measuring student progress and reporting on this to parents.

A further complication is that GCSE grades have now been replaced by a numerical system of 1 - 9 so the target grade for each subject will be a number rather than a grade. For an explanation of how the new GCSE numbers compare to the old grading system, please see the appendix at the end of this guide.

Target Setting in Years 7 and 8

We will continue to use prior attainment data and our own internal testing to set aspirational targets for students joining us from the start of Year 7. This will now take the form of a GCSE target Band for every subject so that both students and parents can see exactly what they should be aiming for at

Target Band	Explanation
A	On-track to achieve GCSE grades 8 - 9 at the end of Year 11
B	On-track to achieve GCSE grades 6 - 7 at the end of Year 11
C	On-track to achieve GCSE grades 4 - 5 at the end of Year 11
D	On-track to achieve GCSE grades 2 - 3 at the end of Year 11
E	On-track to achieve GCSE grades B - 1 at the end of Year 11

the end of Year 11 in five years' time.

Reporting Progress in Years 7 and 8

Subject staff will then complete a termly Progress Report for each student as they do currently which will be sent home to give you a clear picture of your son or daughter's progress. As in the example below, teachers will use the Banding system to indicate what Band they are performing in for that subject based on their predicted performance. You can then compare this with their Target Band for that subject to establish whether they are on, above or below expectations. We will continue to colour code Progress Reports to highlight the link between targets and predicted Bands:

	Working above target
	On target
	Working below target (a cause for concern)
	Working well below target (given the fact that each Band spans 2 grades at GCSE, we would expect to see very few red grades)

Behaviour for Learning (BfL)

We also include information in the final column in relation to the student's "Behaviour for Learning". Behaviour for Learning is graded on a sliding scale of 4 -1 with 4 representing Outstanding, 3 representing Good, 2 representing Requires Improvement and 1 representing Poor.

Subject	GCSE Target	Predicted Band	BfL
English Mr Smith	7	B (6 – 7)	4
Maths Mrs Smith	6	C (4 – 5)	2
Science Mr Taylor	6	B (6 – 7)	3
Art Mrs Ford	7	A (8 – 9)	4
History Mr Andrews	8	C (4 – 5)	2

Progress Report Example (see explanatory notes below)

Explanatory Notes

- **English:** green indicates this student is currently on track to achieve their target grade of 7
- **Maths:** yellow indicates this student is currently a band below their target grade of 6 so this would be a concern. Also, their Behaviour for Learning could be improved
- **Science:** green indicates this student is currently on track to achieve their target grade of 6

- **Art:** blue indicates this student is performing above expectations and is on track to achieve one or even two grades above their target of 7
- **History:** red indicates this student is performing well below expectations and is on track to achieve at least 3 grades below their target of 8

How this links to KS4

As soon as students start their GCSE and BTEC courses in Year 9, they will switch to the current system of reporting at Key Stage 4 in which teachers make a single grade prediction in relation to their target for each subject. This means that the two-grade banding system is replaced by staff indicating the specific grade the student is on track to achieve at the end of Year 11. Consequently, as students move further up the school, both they and yourselves will receive increasingly precise forecasts about what they are likely to achieve at the end of Year 11.

Appendix: The new numerical system for grading GCSEs

Moving from A* - G 9 – 1

As you may be aware, GCSEs in England are changing. The current eight-point A*-G grading system is being replaced with a new nine-point scale, with nine as the top grade and one the lowest.

Crucially, the new grades won't simply map directly onto the old ones but the adjacent diagram demonstrates how we expect the boundaries to fall.

So, for example, the new GCSE grade 4 is roughly equivalent to a low/ middle C grade in the old system. However, a student now achieving around the top end of the C grade range should be awarded a 5. The blurring of the traditional grade boundaries will inevitably make it hard to make comparisons between the performances of different cohorts, but the picture should gradually become clearer with the publication of future sets of results under the new model.

Old System	<i>(How they match up)</i>	New System
A*	A*+ A*	9
A	A*- A+	8
B	A A-	7
C	B+ B	6
D	B- C+	5
E	C C-	4
F		3
G		2
		1