

Year 10 Parents Information Evening

14th September 2017

GCSE Results Headlines

- 5A*-C, including English and maths: 79%. This is up by ten per cent on last year!
- English and maths at Grade 4 and above: 88%. This is up by fifteen per cent on last year and has us the TOP performing state school in the whole of Suffolk!
- We doubled the number of grades awarded at A*, while matching the number of grade As.

What is Progress 8?

- You'll have heard the term "Progress 8" being discussed in the world of education and in the media.
- This is the new headline measure for schools.
- It is based on the progress made by students in their best 8 subjects, divided into certain groups, called 'buckets'.

What is Progress 8?

- Bucket 1: Maths, English Language OR English Literature (best of)
- Bucket 2: Sciences (including computer science) and humanities
- Bucket 3: Other qualifying subjects (Business, catering, ICT, drama, DT, PE, music, art, RS)

What is Progress 8?

- Students have an Attainment 8 score calculated based on their KS4 achievement.
- Their grades are converted to points.
- This total is deducted from their predicted score and divided into 10.
- If the score is positive, they have made better than expected progress.
- If the score is negative, they have failed to make expected progress.

What is Progress 8?

- All students' scores are used to calculate the school's average.
- This becomes the Progress 8 score.
- In 2016 we scored +0.25 which means our students overachieved by a quarter of a grade, on average.
- This is a good score!
- We won't know our 2017 score until January when league tables are published.
- Further info here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IAEgFMUSDY>

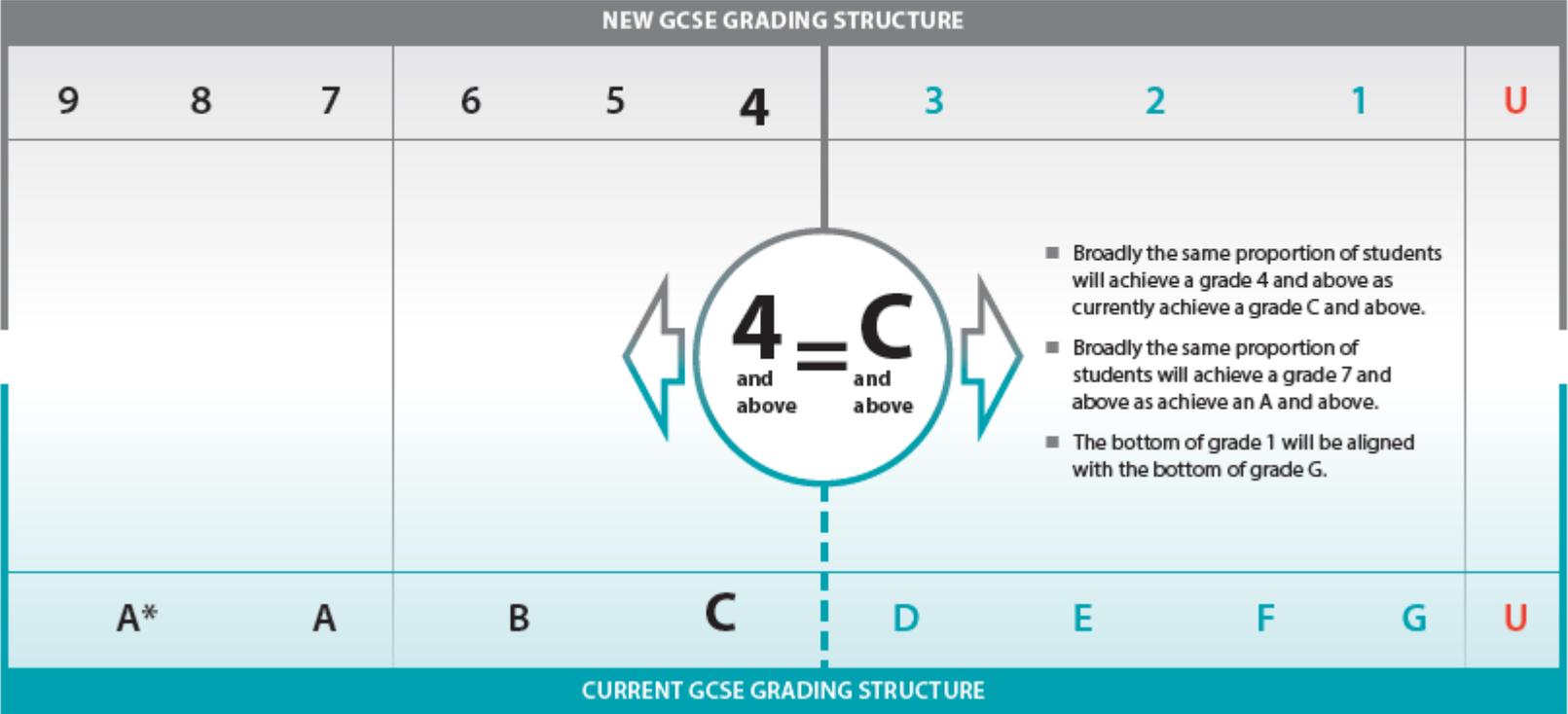
How have we calculated your child's targets?

- Average of maths and English from KS2 produces Attainment 8 estimates.
- From here, we can plot a path to the grades needed to secure the estimation.

What are the changes for 2019?

- In 2019, all subjects will have grades awarded on the 9-1 scale.

Grading the New GCSEs in 2017



What are the changes for 2019?

- All subjects will be linear, meaning they are all assessed with examinations at the end of the two year course.
- Continued increased focus on improving young people's literacy and numeracy skills with SPAG being assessed in every subject's exam.
- There is still some confusion! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-40418457>

How do we assess?

- All students have GCSE target grades. As described, these are calculated by using their prior attainment at KS2 to give a **minimum** expectation. This is **not** to say that any child shouldn't aim for higher!
- Teachers regularly check their students' progress and understanding through assessment of classwork, home learning tasks, controlled assessments, where applicable and short examinations.
- Every half term, a snapshot of every student's progress against their targets is taken, which allows us to identify those that are not making expected progress. Subject teachers, Head of Faculties, or Mr Hart will then intervene to ensure these students are best supported.

How do we communicate with you?

- Through the Academy website: www.holbrookacademy.org
- By telephone
- By email
- By following us on Twitter: @HolbrookAc

What can you do to help your child?

- Ensure they are here! Attendance at school is so important to your child's success. We all get ill from time to time, but increased absence from school WILL affect your child's chances of meeting their target grades. Even 95%, which sounds good, equals ten days off over a year.
- Know when progress reports are due to be issued. This now happens electronically. If you would like a paper copy to be issued to your child to bring home, please contact Mrs Stella Percival in the office.

What can you do to help your child?

- Log in to ShowMyHomework often to check outstanding tasks. You can download the app free of charge which will update you daily on your child's tasks.
- Please make sure that your child has a quiet, calm environment in which to work.
- I highly recommend that they switch off electronic gadgets while completing tasks!!

Notes from other subjects

Drama

- Students will be expected to attend live performances. They will need to write about a live performance as part of their examination. More information will follow about organised theatre visits.

Science

- Students in year 10 will continue to study science started in year 9
- They are studying the new course **AQA Combined Science: Trilogy 8464**
- Later in year 11 a decision will be made whether students are entered for the separate science GCSE's of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- The top set students will almost certainly be expected to take this pathway.

Science - Assessment

- Both science courses are linear, with all formal examinations being held at the end of year 11.
- There are no controlled assessment (coursework) components.
- Both courses have a number of required practical experiments that students must cover over the two years. These will be assessed in lessons.

The two options

Combined Science: Trilogy

- 2 exams for each Science – biology, chemistry and physics
- Each exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes long
- Each exam is worth 70 marks
- Each exam is worth 16.7% of the grade
- Each exam offered as Foundation or Higher Tier
- Two GCSE grades awarded

Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry & Physics

- 2 exams for each Science – biology, chemistry and physics
- Each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes long
- Each exam is worth 100 marks
- Each exam is worth 50% of the grade
- Each exam offered as Foundation or Higher Tier
- Three GCSE grades awarded – one for each science

Design Technology

- Ofqual are still yet to approve the Technical Award that Year 10 students have started to study.
- This was meant to have happened over the summer, but has been delayed.
- Schools have been advised that they should continue to deliver the practical elements.
- The skills learnt and developed in this area are directly transferable to the Product Design GCSE so students are **not** being disadvantaged.

Extra Curricular

- Try and encourage your child to take advantage of sports clubs and other activities.
- Some subjects will run after school sessions and these will be communicated to you via the usual methods.

Key Staff

Form tutors: these are the first port of call for any issues that your child may have.

Mr Hart – Assistant Head for Progress & Outcomes: if you have any concerns over your child's academic progress, you can contact me via the Academy office.

Mrs Cooke – Assistant Head for Pastoral: you can contact Mrs Cooke if you have any concerns regarding your child's personal well-being at the Academy.

Mr Anstee-Parry – Assistant Head (SENCo): please contact Mr Anstee-Parry with any queries surrounding Special Educational Needs.

Mrs Tinker – Curriculum & Progression Co-ordinator: Mrs Tinker deals with work experience and Post 16 opportunities.

Mrs Percival: Exams Officer – if you have questions about examinations or access arrangements, please see Mrs Percival.



Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd March 2018



Why we take part and the importance of Work Experience

- School's role in the process
- Role of Parents / Carers
- Expectations of students





Key points



- First time in a work environment
- Steep learning curve – new skills, knowledge,
- Great experience
- Can often lead to a part-time job
- Clarifies student's thinking about their future aspirations and pathways
- 90 students to place this year, last year 100% successful placements.
- Placements linked to GCSEs, career choice, interests and aspirations



How does it work?

There are two ways of securing your placement:-

- Placements can be found and booked by you
 - Employer Liability Insurance will be needed from the company. You then supply Mrs Tinker with all the information and then contact will be made with the company/business by the Academy to confirm.

OR

- Placements can be booked through Connect Education & Business at a fee to parents
 - Placements have been risk assessed/liability covered



Things for you to consider

- Support your child (but avoid taking over) I am here to help.
- Talk to them about your own experiences
- Transport – Complete the journey in advance, look at your options to get your child to the placement, you are liable for the costs of the transport for the week.
- Clothing/lunch/working days and hours
- Interview/Meeting before hand



Housekeeping



- Contracts – Workplace/School and Parent/Student letter coming home next week.
- Responsibilities – once placement confirmed
- Issues or concerns
- Emergency contact; Academy office, Holbrook Sports Centre and Mrs Tinker.



And finally

- Ask me, I am here to help parents as well as students.
- I can be contacted by email or phone and I will help and answer any questions or queries that you may have.
- The sooner your child gets a placement secured the better.

