

Changes to Curriculum and Assessment at KS4

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KS4 Curriculum and Assessment at Castleford Academy

As you may be aware, new GCSEs have been introduced by the government and will be sat in all schools across the country for the first time in the summer of 2017. The new GCSEs will be graded on a scale from 1-9: grade 9 being the highest, grade 1 being the lowest. As the new style GCSEs are developed, some subjects will still be graded A*-G. These are called legacy GCSEs.

This new system is being phased in starting with English and maths, then most other subjects for the summer of 2018:

- **Our Current Year 11** will sit new GCSEs in English and maths and legacy GCSEs in all their other subjects;
- Current **Years 9 and 10** will be sitting new GCSEs in the vast majority of subjects;
- Current **Years 8 and 7** will be sitting new GCSEs in every subject.

For now, the BTEC courses will continue to be graded using Pass, Merit and Distinction, although this may change to come in line with the 1-9 system.

New GCSE Grades	Legacy GCSE Grades
9	A**
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	B/C
4	C/D
3	D
2	E
1	F/G

A grade 5 will now be seen as a 'good' pass. This is the equivalent to a high C grade on the legacy GCSE.

Target Grades:

In Year 7, our pupils arrived with a score or a level that gave us an indication of the progress they made in primary school. This score/level allows us to predict the minimum grade that each pupil should achieve in their GCSEs. Based on this information, all pupils have been set a minimum target that we expect them to reach at the end of this year and an aspirational target that we encourage them to strive towards.

The targets are designed to challenge each pupil to reach their full potential and to acquire the skills, knowledge and understanding to achieve the very best grade they can at GCSE. It is possible that some pupils will achieve beyond their expected grade. These high aspirations and drive for success are something that we encourage at Castleford Academy and as a result, the targets will be regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure each pupil achieves their full potential.