

13 October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last few years the Department for Education has reformed the National Curriculum, removing the old system of levels. Alongside this, OFQUAL (the Government body that regulates the examination system in England) is phasing in a major change in the way that GCSEs are graded. The traditional GCSE grading from A\*-G is being replaced by a 9 to 1 system, with 9 being the highest.

The table below shows the comparison between the A\*-G grades and the 9-1 grades.

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

To accommodate both of these changes, we have reviewed our assessment system and it has been decided to assess students on the 9-1 GCSE scale from entry in Year 7 through to the end of Year 11. This will provide stronger continuity between Key Stage Three (Years 7-9) and Key Stage Four (Years 10 and 11). As students move from Year 7 to Year 11 we would expect them to start at a low grade and steadily improve to a high grade.

Your child will be given end of year targets in each subject which are representative of the new GCSE grade. This means that you cannot make a comparison with the KS3 level that was previously used. Each target has been set based on where the student was at the end of last year. We have transferred this to the new system and the appropriate target has been given. It has always been the case that some students work at the top end of a grade, some in the middle and some lower down. For your child to understand their position in a grade and the progress they are making, we will be operating a four sub grade system as follows

- a – secure at this grade and has mastered most of the requirements. With some intervention the next grade is achievable
- b – secure at this grade and has mastered some of the requirements
- c – secure at this grade and has begun to master the requirements
- d – the grade is less secure and, without improvement, it might not be achieved

The diagram below represents the expected student progress paths through Key Stage 3 and 4 at saltash.net.

End of Year target Grade	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
9 (a,b)					
9 (c,d)					
8 (a,b)					
8 (c,d)					
7 (a,b)					
7 (c,d)					
6 (a,b)					
6 (c,d)					
5 (a,b)					
5 (c,d)					
4 (a,b)					
4 (c,d)					
3 (a,b)					
3 (c,d)					
2 (a,b)					
2 (c,d)					
1 (a,b)					
1 (c,d)					
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There is no change to the target setting system for students in Years 11, 12 and 13. There will be Parent Information Evenings regarding these changes following the issue of Progress Tracker 1 later this term. More information about these will follow. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [lgriffin@saltashcloud.net](mailto:lgriffin@saltashcloud.net)

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Griffin  
Deputy Headteacher