

Our ref: KJ/ar

16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Target Grades in Year 9**

Target setting in Year 9 is one of the key tools we use to provide the appropriate level of challenge and motivation for students as they begin to consider their GCSE options.

In order to create a suitable level of challenge for students and to prepare them for the more rigorous GCSE examinations they will take in Year 11, teachers are increasingly designing their schemes of work and key assessments for Year 9 to reflect the new GCSE courses. For this reason we no longer set end of year targets for Year 9 and have introduced GCSE targets.

As you may be aware, all new GCSE qualifications are to be graded 9-1 rather than A\*-G. A Grade 1 will be equivalent to a current Grade G; a Grade 4 will be equivalent to a current Grade C; a Grade 5 will become the new "good pass" and a Grade 7 will be equivalent to the current Grade A. Grades 8 and 9 will be current A\* and above.

This means that targets in most subjects are set as numerical grades. The targets are set using national baseline data about the performance of schools across the country and reflect the progress made by the top 20% of schools nationally. However, as the qualifications are all new and, as yet, there is no evidence of national performance in these new exams, we have decided to set each of your child's targets within a band during Year 9. This will be reviewed for Year 10 and a single grade target (usually within the same band) will be set at this time.

We have set targets in the following bands:

- Grade 2-3 (E/D)
- Grade 4-5 (C)
- Grade 5-6 (B)
- Grade 7-9 (A/A\*)

The exception to this is PE. Because Key Stage 3 lessons tend to focus on practical skills and do not reflect the theoretical content of the GCSE course, it would be difficult to set realistic GCSE targets for this subject. In this subject students will be judged to be: **Working Towards** the Expected Standard for Year 9; **Working At** the Expected Standard for Year 9; **Working Above** the Expected Standard for Year 9 or Working at an **Exceptional Standard** for Year 9. This is in line with the new target setting and assessment system have introduced for Years 7 and 8.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that targets are aspirational by nature – something for your child to aim for. We recognise that it will not be possible for every child to meet every target they have been set; equally we acknowledge that some students will exceed their targets.

The report your child brought home this week shows their GCSE banded target grade and the grade they are forecast to achieve if they continue to work and progress at their current rate.

Yours faithfully

Kath Jordan  
Joint Head of School