

The new GCSE and school grading system explained

A short guide for Toot Hill parents and students outlining the key changes to grading GCSE exams from 2017 and how this information will be reported to you by the school.



TOOT HILL
SCHOOL



Changes to GCSE



From the summer of 2017, GCSE students will begin to receive some of their grades in a new format. This document outlines how those changes will effect the way we report information about your child and the timeline for changes to GCSE grades.

The familiar system of grades A* to G, for GCSE subjects, is being phased out over the next three years.

This system is being replaced by a new 9 to 1 points based system with 9 being the highest grade. It is a completely new system and it is difficult to make comparisons with the old A* to G scale.

However, schools have been told by Ofqual (the exam regulator) that the bottom of a grade 4 is equivalent to the bottom of a grade C and the bottom of a grade 7 is equivalent to the bottom of a grade A. We also know that Grade 5 will be considered a “good” pass, which means a rise in challenge from the current grade C.

New GCSE grading structure									
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
A*	A		B	C		D	E	F	G
Old GCSE grading structure									

Broadly the same proportion of students who currently receive a grade C or above will receive a level 4 or above.

Broadly the same proportion of students who currently receive a grade A or above will receive a level 7 or above.

The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with grade G.

Source: Ofqual

How we will report progress

To coincide with these changes we have developed a 0-90 point score system at Toot Hill School, which enables pupils, parents and staff to track progress over all 5 years up to GCSE.

As KS3 levels no longer exist, pupils will be assessed against GCSE standards from entry in Year 7 but will have a 10 point scale within each grade to progress through, as they secure their knowledge on our new schemes of work.

You will find an example of a school report using this new points system at the back of this document.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's tutor.

New GCSE Grades	Toot Hill Points Score
9	90
8	80
7	70
6	60
5 'Good' GCSE pass	50
4	40
3	30
2	20
1	10
0.5	5
U	0

Example school report using the new point score

My School – Year 10 Interim Report: Progress Check 3, July 2017

Name: Pupil Name

Tutor Set: 9.10

% Attendance: 98.9

Subject	Attitude	Homework	CAL	Predicted Grade	KS4 Target (End of Y11)	Progress
English Mrs. A. Teacher	5	5	40	65	70	On Track
Maths Mr. A. Teacher	5	3	33	60	60	On Track
Science Biology Ms. A. Teacher	4	5	45	70	75	On Track
Science Chemistry Ms. A. Teacher	4	4	25	70	70	Concern
Science Physics Mr. A. Teacher	4	5	55	75	70	Above
French Mrs. A. Teacher	5	5	55	55	70	Above
Geography Ms. A. Teacher	5	5	55	70	75	On Track
German Mrs. A. Teacher	5	5	75	65	65	On Track
History Ms. A. Teacher	5	5	47	65	65	On Track
Media Studies Mrs. A. Teacher	4	4	C	C+	C+	On Track

Attitude and homework are graded between 6 for outstanding, down to 1 for inadequate. Pupils will be awarded an E for exceptional standards. Not all subjects can report on homework. *More detailed descriptions of the 6 effort levels and of our homework systems can be found on the school website.*

CAL (Current Attainment Level): This grade is based on the recent internal assessment the pupil has taken.

Predicted Grade: A grade that the teacher predicts a student will achieve at the end of the course should they continue to work at their current level. It must be remembered that the grade is a prediction and not an upper limit.

Target: Pupil targets are based on national data which shows how similar pupils at similar schools have performed nationally. Although challenging a target grade should not be seen as an upper limit.

Progress: This indicates the pupil's progress from their current level (CAL) towards their target grade. Pupils above are currently performing above the expected level and if they continue at this level should surpass their target grade. Those who are on track are working well towards their target and should keep up the hard work. Those who are a concern are not currently performing at the expected level and if they continue will not achieve their target grade in the subject.

CAL/Predicted Grade/Target These are reported in the format that they will receive their GCSE Result in. Although pupils' final GCSE grade will be on the 9 to 1 scale, the 90 to 0 point score within school allows us to show more accurately where a pupil is within the grade (ie. a low grade 7 (70) in comparison to a high grade 7 (79)).

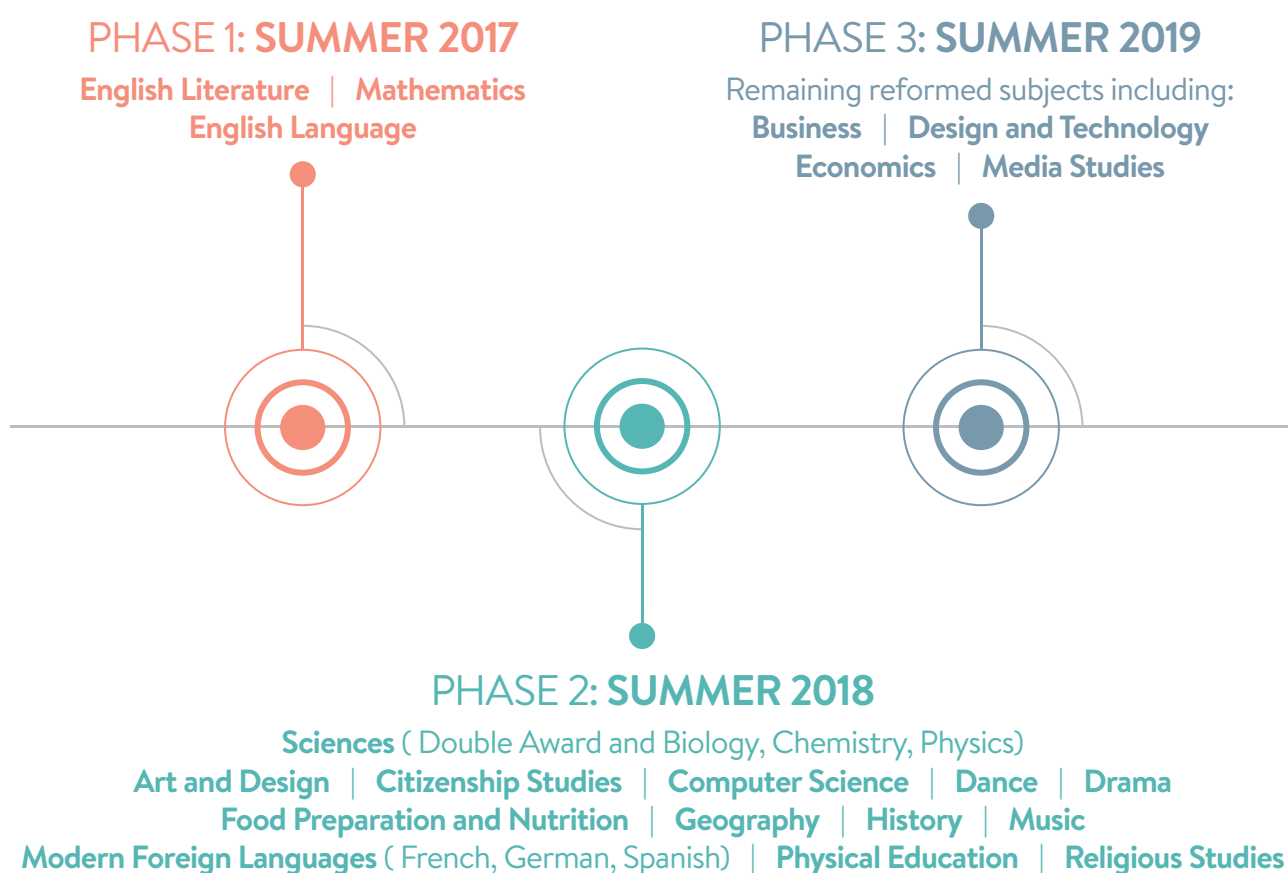
Timeline for the changes

English and Maths will be the first subjects to award grades on this new system in 2017. The next group of subjects will be awarded 9–1 in 2018 with all subjects moving to the new system by 2019.

The timeline below shows when each subject will award grades using the 9–1 grade scale.

This means that for three years pupils will receive result certificates containing a mixture of numbers (new courses) and letters (old courses).

Grades for vocational subjects are not changing to the 9–1 system and students will continue to be awarded, Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass grades.



If you have any questions or would like further information regarding the changes to the grading system, please contact Dr Eardley (ceardley@toothillschool.co.uk).

