

The Journey to GCSE

Information for Year 8 and 9 Parents and Students

Attainment: The New Grading System

- ▶ More differentiation in the middle and the top grades
- ▶ Less differentiation at the lower grades

Key Changes:

- ▶ Grade 4 - *Standard Pass*
- ▶ Grade 5 - *Strong Pass*
- ▶ Grade 9 - *Excellence, less than 4% of pupils*

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

Attainment: The New Grading System

- ▶ Due to course changes there is now more content, meaning that the examinations advantage pupils that study more
- ▶ The removal of coursework means that continual revision and work are required to achieve higher grades

Expected Flightpaths

Grouping	Year 8	Year 9
1*	4	5
1	3	4
2	2	3
3	1	2

Attainment: Tracking Pupils' Progress

Tracking cards are sent home twice times per academic year.

Year 9: Weeks beginning 20th January and 18th May

Year 8: Weeks beginning 16th November and 6th July

Tracking gives a current working at grade, and informs on pupils' Homework and Progress.

ATL will place pupils not meeting expectation on Achievement Cards to aid progress.

Attendance: How does it affect achievement?

- Every drop of 5% in attendance in one year is the equivalent to dropping a half grade in each subject
- 5% is 9½ days in a normal school year
- It is only 6 days in Year 11

Options Choices

▶ Core subjects:

- ▶ English Language
- ▶ English Literature
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Science (2 GCSEs)
- ▶ French
- ▶ History or Geography

- ▶ Core PE (not examined)
- ▶ PSHE (not examined)

▶ Options:

- ▶ Art and Design
- ▶ Business Studies
- ▶ Dance
- ▶ D&T Product Design
- ▶ Food and Nutrition
- ▶ Media Studies
- ▶ Music
- ▶ PE
- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ Triple Science

SMART Choices

- ▶ Because you like the subject
- ▶ Because you think that you will be good at the subject
- ▶ Because it interests you
- ▶ Links to future career ideas

Poor reasons for options choices..

“My friends have all chosen those subjects”

Most option subjects have multiple classes. There's no guarantee you will be in classes with your friends.

Poor reasons for options choices..

“I really like Ms Carrington
or Mr Scaysbrook”

There is no guarantee you will be in
that teachers class. Teachers change
classes or may leave the school.
You're stuck with your choices for
ever.

Poor reasons for options choices...

- ▶ Because you think it will be easy
- ▶ Because your brother/sister took the subject
- ▶ It is a new subject and you don't really know what it involves
- ▶ Because they have a trip to...