

December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child's interim report for the Autumn Term is now available for you to view on Go 4 Schools. We hope that this enables you to see the progress your child has made so far this year.

As your child has now started their GCSE journey, the target grades on this interim report are for the end of Key Stage 4/Year 11 and not the current academic year. We will be tracking and monitoring your child's progress towards these grades this year and throughout Year 11.

We appreciate that the Key Stage 4 targets may appear challenging at the moment, but we strongly encourage students to aspire to achieve them, making effective use of both homework and independent study to enhance the work that they do in lessons.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this report, a list of teacher email addresses is available on our website: [Staff | Goldington Academy](#)

Mr Pinkney is Head of Year 10 and can be contacted at:

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Yours Sincerely,



**F X Galbraith
Principal**




**A parents' guide to
understanding assessment
and progress from Year 10 to GCSEs
at Goldington Academy**

New GCSEs

As you are probably aware, the government implemented radical changes to the structure and assessment of GCSEs a few years ago. This was to align the UK with the best education systems in the world and to ensure that young people have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the 21st century.

The familiar system of A*-G grades was replaced by a system of grading with the numbers 9-1. The new grade scale is not directly equivalent to the A* - G grades, but the diagram below, from Ofqual, shows you the approximate equivalents.



Grading new GCSEs from 2017

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

Some of the main features of the new GCSEs are listed below:

- Grade 9 will be awarded to fewer students than the previous A* grade.
- The Department for Education recognises grade 4 as a “standard pass”.
- A grade 5 or above in English and maths is considered a “strong pass” by the Department for Education, a benchmark in line with the expectations of the top performing education systems around the world.
- Assessment is mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- There is new, more demanding content, which has been developed by the government and the exam boards.
- Courses are no longer be divided into different modules and students will take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.
- Exams can only be split into ‘foundation tier’ and ‘higher tier’ if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities.

What does this mean for parents/guardians of students at Goldington Academy?

From the start of Year 10, attainment data will be shared with parents using the 9 -1 grading system in all subjects. To show the smaller incremental steps of progress students make, we have decided to use a fine grading system (e.g. 5-, 5, 5+, 6-, 6, 6+, etc.), similar to that used lower down the school.

Unlike at KS3, where students get a target for the end of each academic year, Year 10 students will have an aspirational target grade for the end of KS4 (Year 11) that we believe they could achieve with sustained effort and hard work. Targets have been set using prior attainment data, teacher's knowledge of the students and nationally recognised predictive data from 'Fisher Family Trust'.

Current teacher assessment data will tell parents the grade their child *could* achieve if the student sat the GCSE exam in that subject at the point at which the data was captured. It is *not* a predictive grade.

Name	KS4 Target	Current Teacher Assessment	TA1 to KS4 Target	Effort grade	Behaviour Grade
Andrew Scott	5+	4	Working below	3	2
Jemima Potter	4	3+	On track	2	2

Andrew has a KS4 target of a 5+, but would currently achieve a 4 if he sat a GCSE paper. The colour coding indicates that he is currently at risk of not achieving his target.

Jemima has a KS4 target of a 4, but would currently achieve a 3+ if she sat a GCSE paper. The colour coding indicates that with continued hard work and effort Jemima is on track to achieve her end of year target.

This information will be shared with parents through interim reports during the academic year.

How do we track students' progress towards their end of year and GCSE aspirational target?

Teacher assessment data will be collected on a termly basis. There will also be formal summative assessment periods across the GCSE course.

Reviewing KS4 targets

At the end of Year 10, following rigorous internal assessments, we will review all students' GCSE target grades to ensure that they are still accurate. If GCSE targets are changed, they will be shared and discussed with students at the start of Year 11.