

Red House Academy Guide for Parents Levels and the new 9-1 GCSE Grades in English and Maths.

Introduction

Ofsted uses many criteria when making a judgement about a school or academy. Until now you will be used to hearing us talk about the percentage of students who gain grades at least 5+ GCSEs including English and Mathematics at grade C or above is a key indicator of success. However, greater importance is now attached to the levels of progress made by a student during their time with us. There is now an expectation that all students will make at least 3 levels of progress between the beginning of Year 7 and the end of Year 11.

What do we mean by levels and sub-levels?

A student's attainment is measured in levels. Most students who join Red House Academy in Year 7 gain a level 4 or higher in English and Mathematics in their Key Stage 2 SATs taken in Year 6 at their primary school. However, a level 4 still covers a wide range of ability so every level is divided into what are called sub-levels, for example 4a, 4b and 4c, where 4a is the highest sub-level. 4a is two sub-levels above a 4c, while 5c is two sub-levels above 4b.

What is a level of progress?

If a student was a 4b in September 2015 and is now a 5b in January 2016, they have made 1 whole level of progress in a year. If they are now a 5c but started on a 4b then they have made two sub-levels of progress during the year.

How many levels of progress is a student expected to make?

At Red House Academy we know that every child is different and we respond to their development needs in a variety of ways, most commonly by differentiation within lessons. It is expected that from the start of KS3 (Year 7) to the end of KS4 (June in Year 11) students will make a minimum of 3 levels of progress with targets being set based on the students making 4 levels of progress across the two key stages. For the more able students, there is an expectation that on average they will make one level of progress in every academic year.

EXPECTED PROGRESS FLIGHTPATH					
Baseline	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
6c	6b	6a	7c	B	B
5a	6c	6b	6a	B	B
5b	5a	6c	6b	C	B
5c	5b	5a	6c	C	B
4a	5c	5b	5a	C	C
4b	4a	5c	5b	D	C
4c	4b	4a	5c	D	C
3a	4c	4b	4a	D	D
3b	3a	4c	4b	E	D
3c	3b	3a	4c	E	D

Here is an example of the expected progress that a student in KS3 should make. Student A arrives on a level 4C. By the end of year 7 they should be a level 4A. At the end of year 8 a level

5B and then level 6C at the end of year 9. We would then expect student A to reach grade B in their GCSE exams. This flight path can be seen in the chart above.

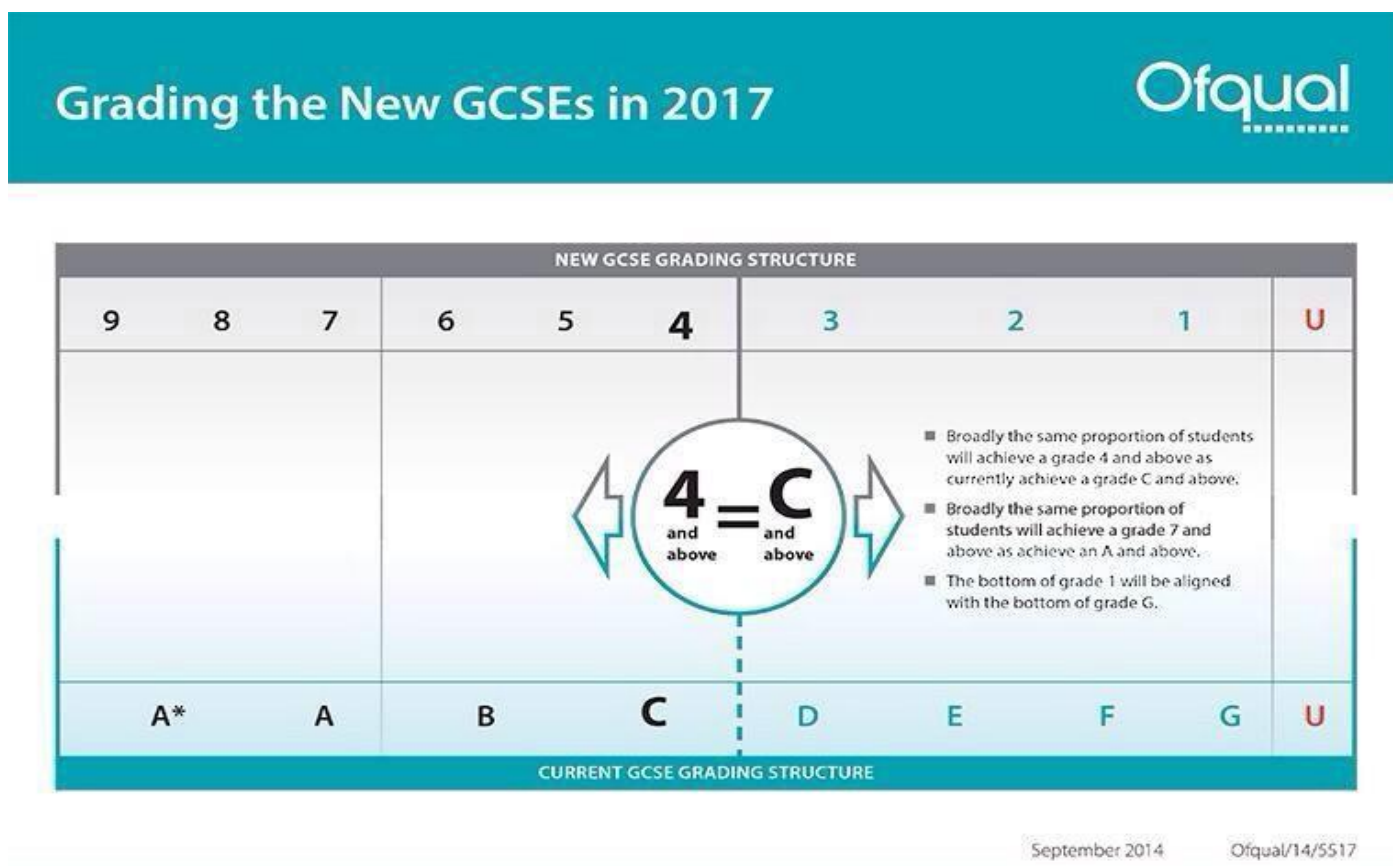
How do GCSE grades compare to levels?

In Years 10 and 11, the majority of subjects studied are GCSE or BTEC subjects and these are graded from G to A* and each grade is equivalent to one level. G being the lowest grade and A* being the highest. However, with changes to the way GCSEs are graded, from this year you will also see subjects graded 9-1 in English and Maths.

The new 9-1 grades for GCSE Maths and English from September 2015

The new English and Maths GCSE courses which students in year 10 began in September 2015 will no longer be graded from A*-C but instead from 9-1. Over the coming years and with the introduction of the new GCSE specifications, all subjects will move to the 9-1 grading system.

7 is the same as a current grade A, with 9 stretching the most able students beyond a current A* grade. The government has said that a 5 is to be considered as a good pass.



We hope that this overview proves useful to you in helping you to understand how much progress your son or daughter should be making. However should you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail filmer.d@redhouseacademy.co.uk or contacting the academy on 0191 5615511 extension 40208.

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