

Assessment and Reporting at Pewsey Vale School



We aim to provide:

- A clear system for reporting progress to students and parents
- Reports that allow parents to easily assess their child's effort within each subject
- An assessment system that helps students to make progress

Context

From September 2015 the government has removed the system of using National Curriculum levels for assessment at Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9). The new National Curriculum Programmes of Study for Key Stage 3 subjects do not include reference to a system of assessment and instead schools have been given the opportunity to decide for themselves how they will measure progress and attainment at Key Stage 3.

PVS Assessment System

Following extensive research and consultation, Pewsey Vale School has adopted a system whereby the same grading system used for GCSE assessment will be used throughout the school including Years 7, 8 and 9. Currently, the grading system for most subjects is the traditional A*-G format, however this will change to numbers 1-9 in September 2015 (English/Maths) and later than this for other subjects. We will continue to report traditional grades at this stage.

Parents of students in Years 7, 8 and 9 should bear in mind that their children are now being assessed with the full rigour of the GCSE system from the start of Year 7. For this reason, their grades are likely to appear to be very low at first. For example, our highest attaining students joining us in Year 7 may achieve 'D' grades to begin with. They should not be daunted or demotivated by this. In fact, we believe it will give our students a clear picture of the incremental journey they should aspire to make between Year 7 and the all-important end of Year 11.

There will be four Assessment Points (AP's) throughout the year to measure the progress of each year group and for each student.

Grade Equivalents

The various systems of assessment introduced by the government have not been designed to be parallel or equivalent to one-another. However, we have designed the table below to give parents a very approximate idea of how the different types of grades might compare.

KS3 Level - old National Curriculum - approximate	Traditional GCSE grade scale	New GCSE grade (Sep 2015 onwards – English and Maths; Sep 2016 – other subjects). Number grades for English and Maths will not be communicated to parents at this stage in order to avoid confusion.
		9
	A*	8
	A	7
8	B	6
7	C	5
6	D	4
5	E	3
4	F	2

3	G	1
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There will be four Assessment Points per year and the data on current student progress will be reported to parents following each of these. We will send home a full written report with comments and targets from each subject teacher once per year for every student.

GCSE grades will be 'fine-graded' with a 1, 2 or 3 after each grade. This allows students and parents to see how confidently a student is in obtaining the grade. The number signifies:

1. Pupil achieves this grade very securely and has a good chance of achieving the grade above
2. Pupil achieves this grade securely
3. Pupil is insecure in achieving this grade and sometimes achieves the grade below

Expected Progress

Teachers will work with target minimum grades which are calculated based on government expectations of student progress based on prior attainment and other factors. In order to help our students develop a 'growth mindset', and to ensure that there is no artificial 'ceiling' on attainment, we will not routinely share target grades with pupils or parents. At Assessment Points we will share 'Working At Grades' with our students and parents together with clear guidance in student books and assessments about how to improve their grades.

Reporting on Effort

As well as a current 'Working At Grade', each time we report to parents we will provide an 'Effort Grade' as follows:

Green	Outstanding effort
Amber	Good effort
Red	Level of effort requires improvement

Subject Grade Descriptors

The grade descriptors provided for each subject on our website serve to give students and parents guidance on the key knowledge and skills required to obtain the various GCSE grades. As noted above, the 'grade equivalents' (i.e. the comparisons between old KS3 levels, GCSE lettered grades and the new GCSE numbered grades) should be treated with caution since the various systems introduced by the government have not been designed to be parallel with one another.

'Pre Public' and End of Year Examinations

There will be Pre-Public Examinations in December each year for Year 11 and for some Year 10 subjects/students. There will End of Year Exams for all students in June/July each year. Neither of these examinations 'count' towards GCSE grades but they are essential for internal monitoring and student feedback.

Early Entry Examinations

In line with government requirements, Pewsey Vale School has now moved away from the system of entering students for examinations before Year 11. The year group completing their Year 11 in Summer 2017 will be the last to complete their Religious Studies GCSE during Year 10.