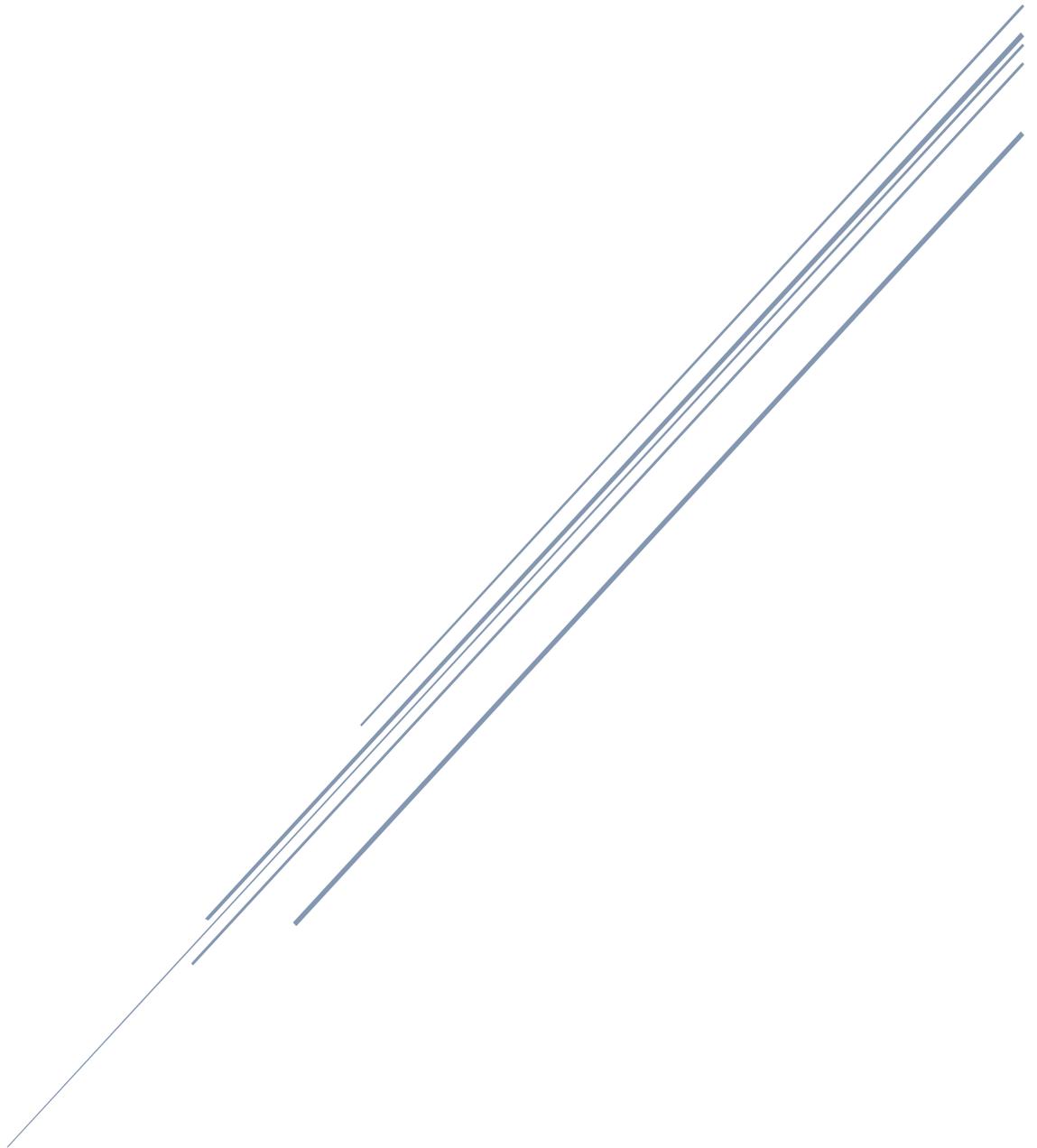


# LIFE WITHOUT LEVELS

A Parents' Guide to Assessment at Sacred Heart from  
September 2016



# Life without Levels: September 2016

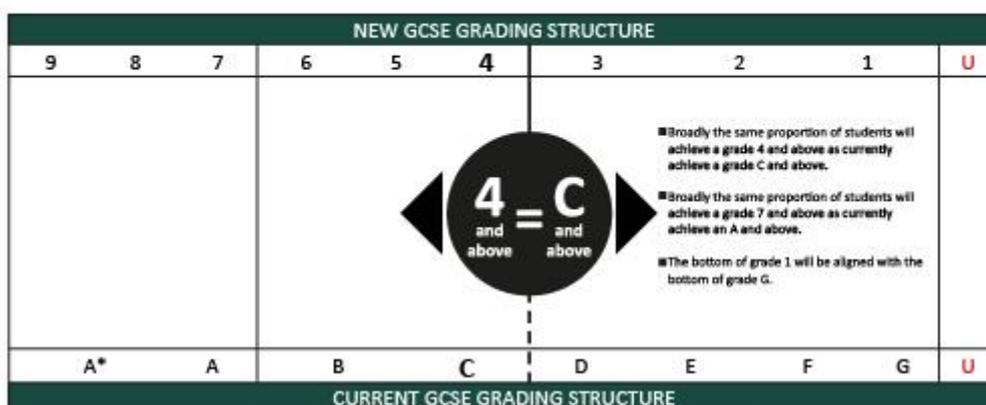
## Changes in Years 7 to 9

Students starting in Year 7 at Sacred Heart will be the first to have studied the new National Curriculum at Key Stage 2. This new curriculum does not divide knowledge and skills into levels and the responsibility of assessing students' progress, marking students' work and reporting to parents using a common national framework has been removed: Schools have been given the freedom to develop their own assessment systems.

## Changes in Years 10 and 11

At Key stage 4 the new GCSEs will no longer award grades A\* to U but replace those grades with a 9 to 1 and U system. The boundaries between 3&4 and 6&7 will correlate to the D&C and B&A thresholds. A grade of '5' will be considered a good pass, this is equivalent to a high C by today's standards.

New GCSE Points	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Old GCSE Grades	G/F-	F/E	E+/D	C	C+/B-	B/B+	A	A+/A*	A*



Students in Year 11, September 16, will sit new GCSEs in English Language, Literature and Mathematics. Students starting Year 10 in September will sit new GCSEs in the majority of their subjects.

## Implementation

Rather than running mixed assessment systems we have taken the decision to swap all Year groups across to their new frameworks from September 2016. This will include marking, teachers' feedback, grade cards, target setting and reporting to parents.

## What to Expect: Years 7 to 9

It is our belief that the foundations built in Key Stage 3 should lead to success at GCSE. With this in mind, the curriculum in each Year of Key stage 3 has been broken down into three broad bands: Core, Intermediate and Advanced. Each band will be further divided into three categories: Developing, Secure and Mastered to give you an indication of your daughter's position within the group.

						New GCSE	Old GCSE	
Increasing Challenge 				9-6	9-6 (EM) A*-B	9	A*&A	
						8		
						7		
				Adv	7-5	7-5 (EM) A-C	6	B
						5		
							4	C
			Adv	Int	5-1	5-1 (EM) C-G	3	
							2	
							1	
	Adv M							
	Adv S	Int	Core					
	Adv D							
	Int M							
	Int S	Core						
	Int D							
Core M								
Core S								
Core D								
Year Group	7	8	9	10	11			

The work will get progressively more demanding as your daughter moves from Year 7 to Year 8 and into Year 9 so students will be expected to maintain or improve their attainment across the Key Stage. E.g.

If assessments in Year 8 indicated that your daughter was attaining 'Intermediate Secure' in English then expected progress in Year 9 English would be 'Intermediate Secure' with outstanding effort producing 'Intermediate Mastered'.

The bands are only an indication of likely outcomes at GCSE and are certainly not fixed pathways. Students will be encouraged to master the sets of skills and knowledge in each band then further develop into the next.

As previously, each subject will award an attainment band and so it would be possible to be 'Core Mastered' in Maths and 'Intermediate Secure' in History.

## Reporting

November: A Target report Card. This will show you what good attainment for your daughter would be.

Christmas, February and Easter: A grade card showing her attendance, merits and concerns received and progress against her target broken down by subject. The progress data is presented in two forms: Current Grade records her attainment over the last half term and Predicted Grade indicates a likely outcome for the end of the year. It is the Predicted Grade that is compared with the Target Grade. You can expect her to exceed her targets if she is making outstanding progress in some subject areas.

Summer: A grade card that compares her Final Grade in that subject against her Target Grade. This report will also include a comment from your daughter's Personal Tutor about her progress and contribution to the school over the year.

All reports include an Attendance bar at the bottom. This indicates the sessional attendance, morning and afternoon registration, as a percentage. It is coloured Red, Amber or Green. Green is good attendance, Amber is low and Red indicates that your daughter might be registered as Persistently Absent.

## What to Expect: GCSEs Year 10 and 11

Nationally there will be a mixture of grades awarded at GCSE for Years 10 and 11 as the Examination Boards are updating their GCSEs in a staggered manner. As a result your daughter will receive a combination of As to Gs and 9s to 1s on her certificates. Year 11 will have English and Mathematics awarded at grades 9-1 but other GCSEs awarded at A\*-G, an 8 point scale. For Year 10, the majority of GCSEs will be awarded at grades 9-1

To try and simplify this confusing situation, we will switch to reporting numerical grades instead of letters for all subjects at Key Stage 4 from September 2016.

<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Grades awarded</b>
English and Maths	9 to 1 where 9 is the highest
Other GCSEs	8 to 1 where 8 is an A*, 7 an A etc. until 1 is a G
<b>Year 10</b>	
All GCSEs	9 to 1 where 9 is the highest

A 'Good Pass' is taken as a C, if grades are awarded or a '5' on a numerical scale. Our approach will be entirely consistent within this principle.

## Reporting

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As with all school policies, the complete document is available upon request, [enquiries@shhs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@shhs.org.uk) or from the school website [www.shhs.org.uk](http://www.shhs.org.uk)