

GCSE 9 to 1 grades: Ofqual's brief guide for parents

Why do we need a new grade scale for GCSEs?

GCSEs in England have been reformed to keep pace with universities' and employers' demands. They are based on new and more demanding subject content but are still suitable for the same wide range of abilities. The new grade scale makes it clear to everyone that students have studied the new GCSEs. It also has more higher grades compared to the old A* to G grades, to give sixth forms, colleges, universities and employers the opportunity to better distinguish between students of different abilities.

How do the new grades relate to the old ones?

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

Comparing old GCSE letter grades to new number grades

Ofqual have designed the grading so that there are comparable points at key grades. The bottom of a grade 7 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade A, the bottom of a new grade 4 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade C, and the bottom of the new grade 1 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade G. We have been clear to employers, universities and others that if they previously set entry requirements of at least a grade C, then the equivalent now would be to require at least grade 4.

Will my child be disadvantaged taking these new exams?

In short, no. We know that it takes a few years for teachers and students to get used to new qualifications. There are fewer past exam papers for students to practise on, fewer teaching resources available, and teachers are not as familiar with the new qualifications as they were with the old ones. We recognise that it would not be fair to penalise students for this, so the exam boards use statistics to help set grade boundaries, so that, for example, a student who would have previously got a grade C or above would be expected to get a grade 4 or above in the new GCSEs. So while the content and assessment have changed, don't worry, we'll make sure that grades are awarded fairly and your child will not be disadvantaged by the changes.



Key Dates and Communication Points

- 19th September – School Photographer
- 25th September – 12.45 pm finish for Open Evening
- 14th November – INSET day
- 22nd November – Settling in Parents' Evening
- 13th–16th May – Year 7 Residential (Plas Pencelli)
- 27th June – Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 17th June – 28th June – End of Year Exams
- 8th July – Harrow Way Guarantee Graduation Evening

Full list of dates on back page of Summer 2018 Newsletter and on our website - <https://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/school-information/harrow-way-eagle-newsletter>

Parent Progress View – Log-in Page:

<https://vle.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/report/parentprogressview>

Parent Progress View – Sign-up Page:

<https://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/parents/parent-progress-view>

Show My Homework Log-in Page:

<https://harrowway.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar>

Link Code already e-mailed to parents.

Tucasi – Link Code included in Welcome Pack – add money to student catering account and pay for School Visits and equipment. Log in Page:

<https://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/parents/payments>

Harrow Way website – Year 7 Parent page:

<https://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/parents/year-7>

Absence – <https://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/about-us/contact-details>

Select *Mrs J McLachlan*. 📧

Tutor Contact - <https://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/parents/year-7>

Twitter - @Harrowway

E-news – sent weekly on Friday afternoon by e-mail and available to read on the website - <https://www.harrowway.hants.sch.uk/school-information/harrow-way-eagle-newsletter>

Calendar – on website and VLE