

KEY STAGE 4

Dear Parents / Carers

This leaflet will help guide you through assessment within The Pingle Academy and explains how we will assess students throughout their GCSE courses. It will also provide you with the information you will need to have a clear understanding of your son/daughter's progress towards their target grades and how these targets are produced.

Your son/daughter's progress report is enclosed with this leaflet and we hope that you will find it informative. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further clarification on any of the information contained within it.

Mr S Hall

Vice Principal

The Pingle Academy

How will The Pingle Academy track the progress that students are making?

- During KS4 students will be assessed using a variety of methods relevant to the different subject areas eg completing a practice exam question or an end of unit test.
- These assessments support the projected grades, which are shown on progress reports and are an estimate of the grade that the student is most likely to achieve by the end of the course.
- The Pingle Academy will collect projected end of course grades from teachers each half term throughout the year. These will be grades that the teachers feel that the student can realistically be expected to gain on completion of their course.
- Teachers will record these projected grades on a sticker which are placed on the front of every student's exercise book or file.

KS4 Grading System

Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation), has made a decision to change the current GCSE grades A*-G to numerical grades 9-1. A grade 1 will be the lowest grade and grade 9 which will be the highest.

What do these numerical grades represent?

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

GOOD PASS (DfE)
 5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
 4 and above = bottom of C and above

- Grade 8/9 represent an A* with the top 20% of A*s achieving a grade 9.
(This will represent exceptional achievement.)
- Students who would have gained a grade A in 2016 are now awarded a grade 7.
- The same proportion of students who would have been given a grade C in 2016 are now given at least a grade 4 under the new system to ensure that no students are disadvantaged through these changes.
- A grade 5 will represent the top third of marks for a current grade C and bottom two thirds of a current grade B.
- A grade 5 is intended to be the new "good pass" grade by the DfE.
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of a grade G.

How will we assess students under the new system?

Students in Year 11 in 2017/18 are currently studying the newly reformed GCSEs in all subject areas and, as such, will be graded using the new 9-1 grading system in the summer of 2018. The exception to this are the Social Studies subjects of Business Studies, Child Development, Law, Psychology and Sociology, which have not yet been reformed and will be graded using the A*-G GCSE grades in the summer of 2018.

Students in Year 10 in 2017/18 will all be studying subjects which have been reformed and will therefore be graded using the 9-1 system in the summer of 2019.

Reformed GCSEs

- Have been designed for a two year period of study
- Will be linear, indicating that students will take all of their exams at the end of Year 11.
- Have had the coursework/controlled assessments removed or reduced in the majority of GCSEs.
- Have been designed to be more demanding.

Targets and Projections

- The end of Key Stage 4 target is the grade a student is expected to achieve at the end of Year 11.
- These targets are based on national statistics, which take into account KS2 levels which were achieved at the end of Year 6 in the English and Mathematics SATS test, to produce student and subject specific targets for the end of KS4.
- Students have recently been given two targets to represent both a minimum expected grade and a more aspirational grade, which students and staff should strive towards.
- On a student's progress report we will use the more aspirational target when comparing each student's projected grade.
- We will also report on a student's attendance, behaviour and achievement, in addition to the important Attitude to Learning score, which is on a 1-5 scale. A full breakdown of the ATL scores is found on the back of the progress report.

What Parents/Carers can do to help their child at home

- Log on to MILK to monitor attendance, behaviour, achievements and homework.
- Monitor the progress report each half term to identify subject areas where your child may be underperforming.
- Monitor their progress reports to identify subject areas where they may be underperforming. Encourage them to speak with subject teachers to see what they can do to improve.
- Contact subject teachers for extra support material where you feel necessary.
- Ensure your son/daughter is encouraged to attend all forms of support and revision sessions before academy/during form time/after academy/Saturday mornings and holiday periods.
- Help create a sensible routine at home for completing homework. Check the parent section in MILK to know what homework is due for completion.
- Ensure that there is a quiet place at home for them to work.
- Attend Parents' Evenings at the Academy so that you can meet with your son/daughter's teachers and discuss matters such as progress, attitude, behaviour etc.

Who do I contact if my son/daughter:

.....is behind target in one or two subjects?

You may wish to contact the class teacher to ask for advice on what you can do at home to help support your child at home

.....is behind target in a number of subjects?

You may wish to contact the Form Tutor or Head of Year to discuss how we can work together to remove any barriers to learning

If you are concerned about any aspects of your child's progress you should firstly contact your child's Form Tutor, Head of Year or Mr S Hall (Vice Principal).