

MOUNT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

NEW GCSE GRADES



There are a number of changes in GCSE courses and examinations over the next few years. The following provides you with some information on the key changes.

- The "old" GCSE English and Maths finished in summer 2016. The current Year 11 group will take the new GCSEs in English and Mathematics in summer 2017.
- Other GCSEs will also end over the next few years. Some will completely cease; others will be replaced by "new" GCSEs.
- "New" GCSEs will have a different grading system. For summer 2018, instead of A* - G, the majority of GCSE subjects will be awarded grades 9-1, but for summer 2017 only, our current Year 11 students, will be awarded grades 8-1 for English and Maths where 8 is the highest.
- "New" GCSEs will be more demanding and use end of course examinations (and as little coursework as possible).

From September 2016 for our current Year 11 students

English Language, English Literature and Maths GCSE courses changed and will be assessed differently, with students achieving grades 8-1 rather than A*-G at the end of summer 2017 only and grades 9-1 beyond that.

A* - A	9
	8
	7
B	6
	5
C "Good pass"	"Good pass"
	4
D-G	3
	2
	1
U	U

Explaining the new GCSE grades; comparing these to the "old" ones

The table on the left shows the connection between the "old" grades and "new" grades. The "good pass" grade for the old GCSE was set at grade C; the new "good pass" grade will be set at a higher standard.

The government intends that:

- * broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 or greater as currently achieve a grade C or greater
- * broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 or greater as currently achieve a grade A or greater

What this is likely to mean for students from summer 2018

- * The new grade 5 is at a higher level than the old grade C
- * This means fewer students will achieve this than the old grade C.
- * If students do not get a 5 or higher, they don't get what the government is probably going to call a "good pass".
- * In the future, those who do not get a grade 5 or better will have to continue to take English and/or Mathematics at post 16.
- * The government may accept grade 4 for the first year or so of the new system though but this is unconfirmed.
- * Entry to post 16 courses will need at least a 4 or 5 in either English or Mathematics.

*Entry to some courses at post 16 will need grades 5 or 6 in English, Mathematics or both.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR CURRENT YEAR GROUPS:

Year group ending KS4 in Summer 2017 (Current Y11)

This is the first year group that will take any of the new GCSE examinations. They will take the “new” GCSE English and Mathematics examinations in summer 2017 and will get grades 8 to 1 for these. Other subjects will still be awarded a grade A*-G in summer 2017.

Year group ending KS4 in Summer 2018 (Current Y10)

This year group will take the new GCSE examinations, gaining grades 9 to 1, for most subjects at GCSE. A few subjects will still have the old A* to G outcomes. Currently, we await more information on the new examinations.

Year group ending KS4 in Summer 2019 (Current Y9)

Nearly all the GCSE examinations for this year group will be “new” GCSEs with the 9 to 1 grading.

Year group ending KS4 in Summer 2020 (Current Y8) and following year groups

By this time, all GCSE examinations **should** be on the new 9 to 1 grading system.