

# Assessment at Stratford upon Avon School



A quick guide for Year 9 parents/carers

## Numbers for grades

Changes made by the Government to GCSEs mean that all of exams that students currently in Year 9 will sit are graded in numbers from 1 to 9, rather than the old lettered grades from G to A\*. An approximate comparison of the new and old grades, from the Department for Education can be seen in the table on the right.

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

In order to ensure a common language through Years 7 to 11, we will be using numbered grades to assess and talk to students about their progress throughout their time here at SuAS.

## Fine grades

To help students to evaluate their progress within and across years we will often add + or - to a grade, indicating how secure they are and how close they are to the grade above, as shown in this table:

Fine grade	Example	Description
Plus (+)	5+	Completely secure at the grade shown. At times works at the grade above.
Whole grade	5	Completely secure in the grade shown. Rarely works beyond this.
Minus (-)	5-	Insecure at the grade shown. At times works at the grade below.

## Setting targets

In line with Government measures, initial targets for all students will be based on each student's KS2 SAT results; if needed this may also be combined or replaced with results from other assessments.

The targets set by the school are designed to place the students on a path to achieve at or above the performance of similar students nationally by the time they reach Year 11. However we recognise that progress is not linear for all students and the idea of a fixed flightpath is not one we want to promote. As such we will only talk about broad target bands in the younger years, with personalised subject targets being set for Years 10 and 11 to ensure the appropriate level of challenge for all students.

Year 6 SAT score	Typical grade range for Year 7
Below 96	1 to 2
96-109	2+ to 3+
Above 109	4- and above

As a guideline Year 9 students progressing as expected should expect to receive assessment grades in the ranges indicated in the table on the right. It is important to note that the numbered grades given in Year 9 are intended only as a way to measure progress at SuAS and are **not in any way a prediction of a final GCSE grade.**

## Measuring progress

Year 9 students will be assessed with a graded assignment or test approximately once per half term in all subjects. A "Current attainment" grade will be assigned for each subject from these assessments, in combination with performance in class work and homeworks. The latest "Current Attainment" grade will be visible live on [MCAS](#) throughout the year. In addition we will also issue a summary interim report at the end of the Autumn and Summer terms, including statements for each subject that indicates whether your child is making progress in line with expectations. A fuller report will be issued at the end of the Spring term which will include information about key strengths and opportunities for improvement in future years.

Any questions about progress in a particular subject should be addressed to the relevant subject teacher in the first instance.