

Explanation of Grades 2020-21

Target Setting

Target setting is an important first step in supporting students to fulfil their potential, achieve highly and be successful.

Students have a Minimum Expected Grade (MEG) which is calculated based on their GCSEs using numerous years of national data. Their MEG should be both realistic and aspirational - their GCSEs tell us it is achievable based on their performance so far. It is a minimum, so achieving it is good, exceeding it is even better.

MEGs allow students to measure their performance as they progress through their time at College. If a student consistently achieves grades below their MEG, this indicates intervention is needed – whether this is support in the subject or help with study skills such as essay writing, organisation or time management.

Key Assessment Points (KAPs)

KAPs occur during the year which show actual current performance in a particular piece of work such as a practice exam, essay or assignment. There are 4 KAPs during this academic year with the fourth being end of year exams or completed assignments for Year 12 students.

The grades used are:

For A level subjects	use grades A* to E, or U (unclassified)
For BTEC courses	use grades D (Distinction), M (Merit), P (Pass) or F (Fail)
For GCSEs	use grades 9 to 1 (where 4 is a pass)

By regularly checking how well a student is doing, we can make sure they are on track to achieve and provide support where needed.

Working Grades

In addition to KAPs, we have two working grade points per year: December and March. This is the grade we think your son / daughter will attain at the end of their course; it takes all aspects of the course into account. It is based on their current performance which can obviously change over the two years. For example, where a KAP in History may assess a particular substantial essay in that subject, a working grade will look at the whole qualification including all parts of the exams and the year 2 coursework element. The aim is to accurately predict the grade which would be achieved at the end of the course if a student's effort and motivation remain consistent throughout. If the working grade is lower than a student's MEG then intervention may be needed and support made available to help them improve. If the working grade is equal to or higher than their MEG, then we would endeavour to support students to maintain this excellent progress.

Please note: the grades on the parent portal are NOT final centre assessed grades, they are grades that aim to give a picture of current attainment.

As with all aspects of your son or daughter's journey through College, we welcome your involvement and would be happy to discuss their progress. We look forward to speaking to you at Parents' Evening. If you would like to discuss progress at any other point in the year, please get in touch with your son or daughter's Guidance Support Tutor.