

Assessment at Stratford upon Avon School



A quick guide for Year 10 parents/carers

Numbers for grades

Changes made by the Government to GCSEs mean that all exams that students currently in Year 10 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
	F
1	G
U	U

As a result of these changes we will be using numbered grades to assess and talk to students about their progress throughout their progress to GCSEs 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 grade 5. At times works at the grade above.
Whole grade	5	Completely secure at grade 5. Rarely works beyond this.
Minus (-)	5	Insecure at grade 5. At times works at the grade below.

Setting targets

In line with Government measures, initial expectations for students will be based on their KS2 SAT results, however these will be tailored for each individual in each subject to ensure that a suitable level of challenge is given to all.

Reaching the targets set once they reach the end of Year 11 will usually mean that students achieve at or above the performance of similar students nationally. Your child's targets will be discussed with them individually with their subject teachers, and may evolve during the year based on their performance. As a guideline normal Year 10 grades will be in the ranges indicated in the table on the right.

Year 6 SAT level	Typical target range for Year 10
Level 3 & below	2+ to 4
Level 4	4 to 7
Level 5 & 6	7 to 9

Measuring progress

Year 10 students will be assessed with a graded assignment or test approximately once per half term in all subjects. A "Current attainment" grade will be calculated for each subject from these assessments and used for comparison to their target grades. All results and the latest "Current Attainment" grade will be visible live on [MCAS](#) throughout the year. To give parents and students an indication of where their final GCSE grade is likely to lie at the end of Year 11, teachers will also record a "Forecast Grade" which is where we believe the student will get to if they continue their current working patterns until the end of their course. The Forecast Grades will also be visible to you on [MCAS](#).

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.