

Assessment at Stratford upon Avon School



A quick guide for Year 11 parents/carers

Numbers for grades

Changes made by the Government to GCSEs mean that all of the GCSEs that students currently in Year 11 will sit are new qualifications and 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.

As a result, we will mainly be using numbered grades to assess and talk to students about their progress throughout their time here at SuAS. The exception to this would be vocational qualifications, such as BTECs, which have their own grading structure

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

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 in 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 11 grades will be in the ranges indicated in the table on the right.

Year 6 SAT level	Typical target range for Year 11
Level 3 & below	2+ to 4
Level 4	4 to 7
Level 5 & 6	7 to 9

Fine grades

To help students to evaluate their progress within the year 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 in grade 5. Rarely works beyond this.
Minus (-)	5-	Insecure at grade 5. At times works at the grade below.

Measuring progress

Year 11 students will be assessed with a graded assignment or test at least once per half term in all subjects. This may include tests or other graded assignments, and will also include their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), or Mock Exams, which will be completed in January.

At regular intervals a "Current Attainment" grade will be recorded for each subject from these assessments. The latest "Current Attainment" grade will be visible live on [MCAS](#) from the end of October and will be updated throughout the year. To give parents and students an indication of what their final GCSE grade is likely to be 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 on [MCAS](#).

We will issue a fuller report at the end of the autumn term, including statements for each subject that indicates whether your child is making progress in line with expectations and key strengths and opportunities for improvement. PPE results will be delivered at the Year 11 Parents' Evening in February, along with guidance on how to improve in each subject. A summary report will then be issued at the end of the Spring term which will include updates following the PPEs to guide improvement into their final exams. Any questions about progress in a subject should be addressed to the subject teacher in the first instance.