

Changes to Education – A Parent's Guide

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are things changing?

Progress 8 is a national change made by The Department for Education (DfE), which effect all schools and Academies for exams sat in 2016 and beyond.

What is the point of the changes?

The aim is that all pupils can make progress and be measured in progress made across a broad choice of subjects and study programs.

What are the benefits of this change?

Using a progress measure helps to make judgements about Pupils and Schools fair. Under the point score progress measure, each pupil's achievements will count equally, which rewards schools for their work with all pupils, whatever their starting point.

How will progress be measured?

Progress will be measured using a value added (VA) methodology. This method will take the progress each pupil makes between Key Stage 2 (end of Primary school) and Key stage 4 (End of Year 11) and compare that with the progress that is made by pupils nationally who had the same level of attainment at Key Stage 2.

Are Mathematics and English still important?

Yes, all students will have to sit Maths and English and both subjects will be double weighted (count twice). All schools will still report on the percentage of students who achieve Maths and English at a C grade or better.

Do any 8 subjects count?

No, The 8 subjects have to be made up of the following combination.

1 slot for double weighted English

1 slot for double weighted Maths

3 slots for other EBacc subjects (sciences, geography, history and languages)

3 slots can be taken up by further qualifications from a range of:

EBacc subjects and/or other high value arts and/or academic and/or vocational qualifications such as Architecture and Btec. English Literature must also be taken.