

Core subjects at Key Stage 4

All students study examined courses in RE, English, Maths, Science and one Humanities subject (History or Geography).

All students will also take part in Physical Education lessons and follow our Guidance programme which includes Citizenship, Work Related Learning, Enterprise and PSHE.

Optional Subjects at Key Stage 4

Students can choose from a range of different pathways which include-

- Pathway 1: 4 single GCSEs
- Pathway 2: GCSE/ vocational combination


Information, Advice and Guidance

Changes to GCSE examinations

- All GCSE assessments are now linear; therefore all examinations will be taken at the end of the course. There will be no more modular examinations.
- Examinations will only be available for pupils to sit in the summer. There will be no opportunities to resit units.

Changes to GCSEs from 2015 onwards

- Reformed GCSEs have been introduced gradually over the last two years. Pupils sitting examinations in 2019 will be awarded the reformed (new) GCSE qualifications which are graded from 9 to 1.



New GCSE grading structure

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

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

New GCSE grading structure

Reformed GCSEs will be graded from 9 to 1 (with 9 being the top level).

The government's definition of a 'good pass' will be set at grade 5 for reformed GCSEs.

A grade 5 will be awarded to the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C or bottom third of a grade B

Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieving a grade A and above

The top 20% of those who get a grade 7 or above in each exam will be awarded a grade 9

The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G

Specific changes to GCSE English and Mathematics include:

- English Literature and English Language are un-tiered.
- Maths is tiered with a foundation tier covering grades 1—5 and a higher level covering grades 4—9
- Linear GCSEs with assessment to be taken at the end of the course in June 2019. There will be re-sit opportunities in November 2019 for English Language and Maths for pupils who are aged 16 plus.
- No controlled assessment in English Language and English Literature.
- English Language to have a Speaking assessment that will be reported separately.

Changes to vocational qualifications

Vocational qualifications will undergo more rigorous assessment procedures and will no longer be 100% coursework based. Approximately 25% of the course will be externally assessed (online test).