

20th October 2016

Dear Parents

When exam results were published in August you may well have seen in the media that the national assessment system is changing. These new exam systems will affect students of all ages over the coming years and can be seen in the table below.

The changes and who they apply to

Current Year Group	Change
12 & 13	Move to Linear A levels, no modules throughout the year, examined at the end of Year 13 only. AS and A level become separate qualifications.
11	GCSE English and Maths award 1 to 9. All other subjects remain A* - G.
10	Majority of subjects award 1 to 9 at GCSE. except Engineering, Media Studies, and Technology.
9,8 and 7	All subjects award 1 to 9 at GCSE
7	Students are awarded Key Stage 2 scaled score in English and Maths at Primary School.

At GCSE the current benchmark for a good grade is a C, in the future this will change to a 5. Below is the information the Government has given to schools.

- The D Grade will match with a 3, no other grades have an exact match.
- Roughly 2 out of every 3 students who would have been awarded a C will instead gain a 4 – this applies in all subjects.
- A 9 is a new grade that exceeds the old A*.

Obviously the staff at Thomas Deacon Academy will continue to work hard to prepare and support all of the young people in our care.

We will continue to publish reports throughout the year to inform parents of their children's progress. Following parental feedback reports for Year 7 to Year 9 will be published 3 times each year and for all other year groups 4 times.

The flight paths, which map out how we measure data against expected progress will still be available for you to view on our website in the parent section.

To simplify reports each student will receive level end of year targets that will feature on reports; In Year 7 to Year 9 based on their starting point; in Year 10 and Year 11 the target will be the GCSE grade they should be aiming for, based on their Key Stage 2 data. Alongside this there will be a National Expected Progress target based on the performance of children of a similar ability in previous years. We will also publish a TDA target which is in line with our Core Values, aspirational, as we want our students to achieve highly.

Yours sincerely



R Valler