



**A student and parent guide to  
Key Stage 3 assessment and reporting  
2019/20 at Kingsdale Foundation School**

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

**Re: KS3 Assessment and Progress Reporting – Information for Parents**

I am writing to provide further details of our Key Stage 3 (Years 7 & 8) assessment system that is in use at Kingsdale Foundation School.

You may already be aware that as part of the government's education reforms since 2014, the National Curriculum and assessment systems used in all schools in England and Wales have undergone a number of major changes. These have included new, more challenging, linear GCSEs and Advanced Levels, the removal of coursework in the vast majority of subjects and a much greater focus on the development of student skills in their academic subjects. Perhaps most significantly for your child, at GCSE the traditional A-U grading system has been replaced by a 9-1 number based grading system.

At Key Stage 3, one of the most significant reforms has been the permanent removal of the National Curriculum Level assessment system (e.g. Level 4, 5, 6 etc.) and its replacement by localised assessment systems selected by individual secondary schools.

After ongoing development and consultation, students in Year 7 and Year 8 are assessed by the Kingsdale Grade system (also known as **KS Grades**) which we believe equips our students with the skills and knowledge needed for the new, tougher Key Stage 4 curriculum. A key aspect of this system is that Key Stage 3 and 4 studies are seen as being closely linked and students are explicitly enabled to develop skills and knowledge in Years 7 & 8 that will equip them to be successful as they progress into Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11) and beyond.

The key features of the Key Stage 3 Kingsdale Grade system are:

- That it enables students to start developing the key concepts, knowledge and skills they will need for academic success in Key Stage 4 and beyond;
- That the system can be easily understood by stakeholders, including students, parents and staff, thereby ensuring that areas of strength and development are identified and shared;
- That it uses recognised and understandable terms to measure student achievements, e.g. Kingsdale Grades are measured from 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest) in a similar fashion to the new GCSE attainment grades;
- That it provides all students with the chance to excel in all subject areas through the use of high quality, regular assessments in the classroom and at home;

We hope that you find the information enclosed with this briefing sheet useful. Should you have any questions regarding Kingsdale Grades Key Stage 3 assessment system, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mr A Sear  
Deputy Headteacher

## National Assessment Reforms at Key Stage 4

From September 2017 reformed GCSE qualifications have been taught in the following subjects:

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Art & Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Economics, Citizenship, Computer Science, Combined Science, Drama, Food Technology, Geography, History, Design & Technology, Languages, Media Studies, Modern Languages, Music, Physics, Physical Education, Psychology, Religious Studies, Sociology and Statistics.

Any remaining GCSE 'legacy' courses will subsequently be reformed.

It has been stated that reformed GCSE courses will be more demanding and require higher levels of literacy and numeracy to enable students to access the highest grades.

Other changes include:

- A new grading scale that uses the numbers 9-1 to identify levels of performance, with 9 being the top grade. This grade will be placed slightly above the previous top grade of A\*;
- A new linear structure where all examinations are taken at the end of the course and content is not divided into modules;
- Examinations taken as the principal method of assessment (removal of coursework), except where they cannot provide a valid assessment of the skills required by the course;

How does the 9-1 grading compare with the current A\* to G grading?



### Grading new GCSEs from 2017

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

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

**AWARDING**  
4 and above = bottom of C and above

## Key Stage 3 Assessment at Kingsdale Foundation School

### Ongoing or 'formative' assessment

During their Key Stage 3 studies in Years 7 & 8, students are assessed on an ongoing basis through their class & home work and interactions with their teachers. This is called **formative assessment**.

Teachers record the outcomes of this type of assessment activity in the student exercise books and folders, which are marked at least every two weeks. Students are encouraged to engage with the marking provided by their teachers by adding their own ideas, suggestions and questions in response to teacher comments in green pen. We call this the '*green pen strategy*'.

We also welcome parental involvement in this form of assessment and student exercise books/folders should be sent home roughly every three weeks by teaching staff for parents to view the work of their child and to add their own comments using the feedback sheets which are available at the back of the exercise book/folders in each subject.

Formative assessment outcomes are usually recorded in student exercise books as an Effort Grade A-E and an Attainment Grade 1-10. Furthermore to assist students in understanding how well they have acquired key knowledge or skills via such assessment, teachers routinely use a series of standard words or phrases when assessing work in this fashion. These are as follows:

<b>Excelling</b>	Has demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of all concepts and can apply new contexts.
<b>Secure</b>	Has shown secure understanding of the main concepts and skills.
<b>Developing</b>	Has grasped some of the main concepts and skills, however still requires development.
<b>Working Towards (WT)</b>	Still working towards grasping some of the main concepts and skills (ungraded).

### Snapshot or 'summative' Assessments

Summative assessments take place at the end of a unit or topic and are usually in the form of a test or major piece of work. They enable a teacher to see how a student is performing in their subject at a given time or in a certain skills or knowledge focus area. These take place once per half term. One of these summative assessments will be taken by the student in each subject during a formal exam week, which usually takes place approximately one month before a scheduled Parents' Evening. Full information regarding the assessment schedule for the academic year for each year group can be found on the school's website at [www.kingsdalefoundationschool.org.uk](http://www.kingsdalefoundationschool.org.uk)

In these summative assessments, all teachers across the subject department set their students the same test or piece of work so that grades achieved by the students are comparable.

These grades are recorded by the subject teachers in the school's online assessment portal [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com). It is these grades that parents can view when they log into their account. Guidance for parents on how to log onto [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com) can be found on our website. Technical support is available from Ms Otubu via [attendanceoffice@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:attendanceoffice@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk)

Summative assessments allow teachers to see how students are performing in terms of understanding certain knowledge or demonstrating key skills at a particular time.

### **How are summative assessments graded?**

To further develop the link between Key Stages 3 & 4 and to ensure continuity across the school, Kingsdale Grades are expressed in a similar number format to the reformed GCSE numerical grading system 9-1. Please note however that while the number format is the same, the level of achievement between the Kingsdale Grades and GCSE numerical grades is not, i.e. a Kingsdale Grade 9 would not be at the same standard of achievement as a GCSE Grade 9.

In Years 7 & 8, summative assessment outcomes for students are based on a system of 9 stages (referred to as Kingsdale Grades) which describe how students are performing in their assessments in the range 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. For each subject, each Kingsdale Grade 9 to 1 is described, allowing the student to know what knowledge they have acquired and what skills they can demonstrate, as well as what they need to demonstrate to reach the next grade.

The full range of grades will be available within the year so that a student in either Year 7 or Year 8 can attain any Kingsdale grade between KS Grade 1 and KS Grade 9.

### **What targets will students be set and how does the school do this?**

To assist students with making the best possible progress during their time with us, relative to their starting points, the school calculates a series of target grades for each student for each subject. These target grades are expressed as a Kingsdale Grade for Years 7 & 8 and as a GCSE grade for Years 9, 10 & 11.

Target grades are shown on both the student Go4Schools account page and on the Short and Full Reports and are expressed as an End of Year Target, i.e. the grade the student is expected to reach by the end of the academic year.

The prior attainment of students at Key Stage 2, as well as supplementary baseline testing are used to set student targets. The targets then allow staff, students and parents to plot an indicative flight path of potential success, showing the **minimum levels** of achievement expected for the student. Students will of course exceed these minimum levels in many cases, particularly where they reach the highest grades at the end of Year 11.

Parents are advised that targets may deviate from the flight path where additional data suggests they might be lower or higher in a particular subject.

The Kingsdale Flight Path diagram below shows the indicative stages of development for students in Years 7, 8 & 9.



Kingsdale KS3 Grade Indicative Flightpath

	Old GCSE →				U-	U	U+	G-	G	G+	F-	F	F+	E-	E	E+	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+	A*-	A*	A*+	A**-	A**	A**+			
New KS2	Old NC Levels	1c	1b	1a	2c	2b	2a	3c	3b	3a	4c	4b	4a	5c	5b	5a	6c	6b	6a	7c	7b	7a	8c	8b	8a	9c	9b	9a	10c	10b	10a						
	1b				*																																
	2b					*																															
80-83	2a						*																														
84-87	3c							*																													
88-91	3b								*																												
92-95	3a									*																											
96-99	4c										*																										
100-102	4b											*																									
103-105	4a												*																								
106-108	5c													*																							
109-111	5b														*																						
111-113	5a															*																					
114-116	6c																*																				
117-118	6b																	*																			
119-120	6a																		*																		
<b>Kingsdale KS3 Grades</b>		<b>WT</b>	<b>1-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1+</b>	<b>2-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2+</b>	<b>3-</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3+</b>	<b>4-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4+</b>	<b>5-</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5+</b>	<b>6-</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6+</b>	<b>7-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7+</b>	<b>8-</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8+</b>	<b>9-</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9+</b>	<b>9+</b>							
New GCSE Grade (2016)					U	U	U	1-	1-	1	1+	2-	2-	2	2+	3-	3+	3+	4-	4	4+	5-	5	5+	6	6+	7	7+	8	8+	8+	9-	9	9+			

<b>Targets</b>	* Entry	End of Year 7	End of Year 8	End of Year 9	End of Year 10	End of Year 11	WT = Working Towards
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### **How is student progress tracked?**

Student progress will be tracked by the teacher on Go4Schools and by the student themselves on a progress sheet in their exercise books/folders.

In addition, students will receive up to 5 Short Academic Reports per year which will show their Current Grade, Target Grade and Trajectory Grade (what they are expected to get by the end of the academic year) for each subject that they study. Short Academic Reports are released at published dates in the academic year for parents to view on [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com)

These will be supplemented by 1 Full Academic Report which will provide assessment data as well as a detailed written comment about student strengths and areas for development in each subject. Full Academic Reports are usually released on [www.go4schools.com](http://www.go4schools.com) one week prior to the Parents' Evening for a year group, to allow time for parents and students to digest the information contained within before meeting the subject teachers at the evening event.

### **I still have questions – where do I go?**

There are a number of places where you can seek answers to any remaining assessment questions that you might have:

**Subject teachers** can be contacted via the department email addresses. Be sure to state your child's name and teacher and the nature of your query. It is usually best to contact subject teachers directly when the query relates to just one timetabled subject. The Communication Directory listing all useful email contact addresses for the whole school can be found on our website in the Information section.

The tutor can be contacted where parents might have queries relating to student progress or attainment in a range of subjects. The tutor may also suggest that parents approach the Head of Learning for the year group who will have an overview of the achievements of the cohort and will be able to advise regarding general queries relating to the systems of assessment in place at Key Stage 3. Email addresses for tutors and Heads of Learning are listed in the Communication Directory.

Specific assessment queries can be directed to Mr Sear who will be able to offer in-depth technical explanations to queries posed by parents. Mr Sear can be contacted via email [asrpa@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:asrpa@kingsdale.southwark.sch.uk)