



Balaam Wood School
A guide to the School Assessment system

As some of you may know, there are big changes in GCSE's and the KS3 National Curriculum over the next few years and we are changing our assessment system to tie in with government changes.

What is changing?

- GCSE's – New subject content which is going to be generally harder than previously
- GCSE's – Grading system changing from grades A*-G. Currently in English and Maths, students in Year 11 will get their English and Maths GCSE grades as 9 to 1 (where 9 is the highest grade)
- For students taking GCSE's starting in September 2016, they will also get GCSE results in the vast majority of their subjects as 9 to 1 grades
- In KS3 the National Curriculum levels that schools have used to assess students have been removed and the government has allowed schools to create their own. As a result of this, from September 2016 Balaam Wood is going to introduce its new assessment system which will be for all students through KS3 and KS4

The Balaam Wood assessment 9 to 1 scale shadows the new GCSE grades that the government are introducing in 2016. Currently students in Year 11 are following new GCSE course in English and Maths which will give the student a grade of 9 to 1 which replaces the A*-G grades. The table below shows how the new system relates to the old GCSE grades. From September 2016, the vast majority of GCSE subjects will follow the new curriculum content and be graded 9 to 1.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|-------------|----------|
| | U | G | F | E | D | C | B | A | A* | A** | Legacy GCSE | |
| Entry | Foundation | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | New GCSE |

Balaam Wood has designed an assessment system that allows pupils to be tracked to the end GCSE grade from the start of the student's time in school from year 7. The student will be given a target grade based on their KS2 score. Pupils will then follow a progress line to their target grade all through school. Each grade is split into 3. For example:

| Balaam Wood Grade | What it means: |
|-------------------|--|
| 4+ | Student is secure at this grade and with intervention may move up to the next grade |
| 4 | Student is secure in this grade |
| 4- | Student is insecure in this grade and needs to consolidate criteria within this grade boundary |

Students who are already in KS3 and have old National curriculum levels will have their current level converted to a new 9 to 1 grade. The table below shows how to translate between the old National curriculum levels and the new 9 to 1 grades.

Old National curriculum levels relate to new Balaam Wood assessment system

| Current NC level | New BWS grade |
|------------------|---------------|
| 8a | 6+ |
| 8a | 6 |
| 8b | 6- |
| 8c | 5+ |
| 7a | 5-/5 |
| 7b | 4/4+ |
| 7c | 4- |
| 6a | 3+ |
| 6b | 3 |
| 6c | 3- |
| 5a | 2+ |
| 5b | 2 |
| 5c | 2- |
| 4a | 1+ |
| 4b | 1 |
| 4c | 1- |
| 3a | F+ |
| 3b | F |
| 3c | F- |
| 2 | E |

Entry level = Working below GCSE level

Foundation level = Working below GCSE level

2+ = Student is secure in that grade and with extra support could improve his/her grade

2 = Student is secure within the grade boundary

2- = Student is insecure within the grade boundary and needs extra intervention to secure that grade