



How will I know my child is progressing? (cont)

It is important to remember that your child will not always make progress at a steady rate; they may fluctuate above and below their targets. It may be that your child shows more progress in some subjects than others. Both of these are perfectly normal.

These flightpaths will challenge each child to reach their full potential. It is possible that some pupils will achieve beyond their outstanding grade at every stage of their journey; for our pupils 'the sky's the limit' - this is at the very heart of our values at SMCC.

Each of your child's exercise books and folders will have a 'target' sticker on the front. On this they will clearly see their journey through the year and at the end of each learning programme they will record their current attainment so that they continue to map their progress. They can then easily see if they are on track to make their targeted grade.



Tracking your child's progress

As you are aware GCSEs have been changing over the last couple of years; they have new content and are structured and assessed differently from the previous GCSEs.

As a result of these changes there is a completely new grading structure to ensure that there is no confusion as to which are the new GCSEs and which are the old.



**NEW GCSE
GRADING STRUCTURE**

| NEW GRADING STRUCTURE | CURRENT GRADING STRUCTURE |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 9 | |
| 8 | A* |
| 7 | A |
| 6 | B |
| 5 | B |
| 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



Pupils are now awarded one of nine grades (rather than one of eight as previously). The grades will be described using numbers (1-9) rather than letters where Grade 9 will represent the highest level of attainment.

The previous A* to G system does not directly mirror the new number system and it may take a little getting used to. Previously pupils aim for a grade C or above to gain a good GCSE pass, in the new number grades your child will need a 4 or above to gain a standard GCSE pass which is the equivalent of the old grade C and above, a 5 or above is a strong pass which is the equivalent of a high C previously. At SMCC, all pupils in are assessed on the new scale of 1-9 which relates directly to the GCSE content.

It is important that as a school, and as parents, we all view your child's progress as a journey. Steady steps every term, whilst building knowledge and developing skills, is the key to GCSE success. Progress should be steady and secure over time.

As each grade represents a considerable gain in knowledge, skills and understanding we have added subgrades to ensure that steady progress can be identified. In order to distinguish these from sublevels used previously at KS3 we have used D for developing when pupils are just beginning to work at a new grade, S for securing when they are consolidating the work in a new grade and M when they are mastering the grade. You should therefore expect to see steady progress across the LPs.

Some of our younger pupils may not be ready for a GCSE grade when they enter the college and the 1-9 scale would not be appropriate. As a result, a minority of pupils in Years 7 and 8 may not be working at a GCSE grade 1. To support these pupils, we have added a 'breakthrough' grade to the scale, which will also be subleveled. Therefore, we can still accurately measure progress for each individual child.

The Benefits

The B-9 scale is linked to the new GCSE grades therefore it is easier to understand as you can see your child making steady progress towards their final GCSE grade.

It is easier for teachers, pupils and parents to monitor progress over time. As pupils are measured against the same criteria from Year 7 through to Year 11, we can clearly see the progress each individual is making in all subjects. Pupils who need stretching further, or who need more support, will be easier to identify. The same assessment language will be used across the College, making it easier for pupils to understand what they need to do to move on, and for parents to be involved in their child's progress.

How will I know my child is progressing?

We will continue to track your child's progress regularly in each subject however rather than setting a target we will place each pupil on one of 8 'flightpaths' that will guide him or her to a challenging final grade. The different flightpaths will each have a different colour, so your child could be on the 'green' flightpath or the 'yellow' flightpath.

The flightpath will have an upper and lower path, if your child is on or above the 'baseline' we will say that they are making progress 'in line with their peers nationally' or above, if your child is on or above the lower path we will say that their progress is 'in line with their peers nationally'.

We expect all pupils to make at least progress in line with their peers nationally, however we would like all our pupils to be working to move up to the aspirational progress.

The flightpath will be the same for all your child's subjects except Languages and is based on the average of their English and Mathematics score at KS2.

