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Dear Parents and Guardians

GCSE Grading

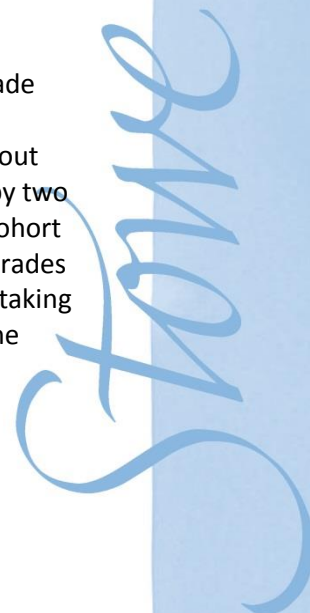
Please find enclosed your son/daughter's end of term report.

This year for the Fourth Form, attainment grades have been given in a mixed letter and number format. This is because the government changes to education have included a gradual move to the new, reformed GCSE grading, which will be using levels 1 to 9, rather than letter grades U to A*. We have decided to report in a mixed format because, for the Fourth Form, there are still subjects that will still be assessed using the 'old' letter grades as well as some subjects which will be assessed with the new number grades. We also believe that using a mixed letter/number grade will help both pupils and parents to understand the rough equivalences between the old and new grading systems.

The comparison between the old and new grading systems is roughly as follows:

8 = A*
7 = A
6 = B
5 = C+
4 = C-
3 = D
2 = E
1 = F
0 = U

You may notice that the table above does not include the new grade 9. This is because this grade essentially represents an A** and will only be awarded by the exam boards based on the performance across the national cohort. We have been told that the formula for working this out will be to take the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 7 and above nationally, divide that by two and then add 7%. This would then be the percentage of pupils within the grade 7 and above cohort that will be achieving a grade 9, with the grade 8 boundary set to have equal space between grades 7 and 9. As you can imagine, this will be impossible for use to calculate in advance, so we are taking the approach of not awarding grade 9 for our internal assessments, but rather we will leave the awarding of 9 to the exam boards once they have the results of the whole cohort.



Students in the Fourth Form will be assessed at GCSE in the new number grades in the following subjects:

Art
Computing
Drama
English Language
Geography
Modern Foreign Languages (French, German and Spanish)
Music
Philosophy & Religion
Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Sports Science

Students in the Fourth Form will be assessed at GCSE using the old letter grades in the following subjects:

English Literature
Design & Technology
English as a Second Language
History
Latin
Maths

I hope this helps you to better understand these national changes to GCSE grading and how we are managing them at Stowe, but do please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Dr Julie Potter

Stowe