

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will have received your child's first Academic Summary of the year, I am writing to inform you of the changes we have made to assessment at The de Ferrers Academy.

You may already be aware that almost all subjects have new specifications at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). The key changes are the removal of Controlled Assessment, or coursework as it was previously known, and that grades are now awarded on a 9-1 scale. Clearly, this will impact on the way students are assessed and prepared for examinations. English and Mathematics will be the first subjects to be awarded 9-1 in 2017, with the vast majority of other subjects following in 2018.

As a result of these changes, we have decided to implement a new assessment system at Key Stage 3, so that our students can develop the skills required to be successful in Years 10 and 11. The Academy has written 9-1 grade descriptors for each subject taught in either Key Stage so that students across all year groups can be assessed against the same criteria. These descriptors will be available shortly on our website.

The content of the Academic Summaries has been amended to reflect these changes. Where appropriate, all targets are based on the 9-1 scale and, as in previous systems, Key Stage 3 is assessed as a current working grade and Key Stage 4 students are provided with an end of course prediction.

Targets are subject and student specific and are based on Key Stage 2 SAT results. Targets are also benchmarked in order to place students in the top 20% of performance nationally.

To allow the assessment systems time to develop, the decision has been taken to not publish current working grades in Key Stage 3 at this time. An On Course Indicator will, however, be provided for each subject to indicate whether a student is on course to meet their end of year target. This will be accompanied by an Attitude to Learning score which is a key indicator of likely progress.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy.

Yours sincerely

Craig Brown
Vice Principal