

# Important information regarding changes to School reports



# BULWELL BULLETIN

PARENT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2016

## Learning Together

I have enjoyed getting to know the students and working with staff to continue to raise standards at the academy. My top priority is to ensure that students can benefit from a great learning environment to enable them to achieve their very best grades.

As a parent, your impact on your child's success must not be underestimated. This bulletin explains how you can best help your child with their education and outlines some of the significant changes to the new GCSE examinations your child will be taking.

## How can you help your child at home?

There are lots of practical things you can do to help, including making sure there's somewhere quiet to work and that your child studies regularly at home.

## The END of A-G grades!

There have been ongoing changes in Education for a number of years but the most noticeable for you will be the change in GCSE grades.

The current letter grades, A to G, have been replaced with a number system 1-9 (9 being highest). For Year 11, the changes will apply only to English and Mathematics. All other subjects will remain with the letter grading system.

For students in year 10 and below, all subjects will have the new number grades. More information about the new grading system is shown over the page.

*Mr Williams  
Principal*

## Top tips for great home learning

Study every night by:

- ◇ *Completing homework*
- ◇ *Using online resources*
- ◇ *Planning ahead*
- ◇ *Reading for pleasure*

## How we can help:

In addition to classroom learning we offer:

- Revision and coursework clubs
- Saturday morning mathematics coaching
- Exam technique practice and past exam papers
- Mentoring and advice

Your child's tutor is always happy to discuss progress with you.

# GCSE Examination Grades: Letter and Number Grades

Information for students and parents sitting new GCSE examinations.

For many years GCSE examinations have been graded using letters, with A\* being the highest down to G (lowest), with a 'U' or 'unclassified' grade awarded to entrants who fail to gain enough marks for the lowest (G) grade.

This system is being changed to number grades which shouldn't be confused with numbers used in primary school education.

## It's only English and maths this year!

This change is being introduced for English and Mathematics GCSE exams to be taken this year by Year 11.

Parents of students in Year 9 and 10 will see the new numbers applying to all GCSEs.

## No comparison.

As you can see, the old letter grades do not directly relate to the new number grades.

Where the GCSE Grade C was the old benchmark for students and employers, it is now the new Grade 5 which is a HIGHER standard.

The new number grades bare no relation to the Key Stage 2 Levels used previously in primary schools.

OLD LETTER GRADES	NEW NUMBER GRADES
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
D	5
E	4
F	3
G	2
U	1
U	U

## Contact Us

Please see our website for more information about the new Home Learning Policy.

Your first point of contact within the academy is your child's tutor.

[www.bulwellacademy.co.uk](http://www.bulwellacademy.co.uk)