

Gartree High School

Ridgeway, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5TQ



1st September 2017

Dear parents and carers,

Our students will now have met most of their teachers, and by Monday will have had at least one lesson in all their subjects. Many will have home study to complete over the weekend and coming days. Independent learning has always been an important part of school life and has become increasingly important with the recent exam reforms as there is now increased content and rigour. Many of you will have friends and relatives who received GCSE results last week. You may have heard news stories regarding new grading and standards. Such changes can be complicated, so here is some guidance that is relevant to you and your child.

Nine facts about new GCSEs:

- 9 All new GCSEs in England will eventually be graded with the new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.
- 8 The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and have more challenging content, and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.
- 7 English language, English literature and maths are the first to be graded from 9 to 1 this year. Students will get A* to G grades for all other subjects this year.
- 6 This year's students will not be disadvantaged by being the first to take new GCSEs. Broadly the same proportion of students will get grades 1, 4 and 7 and above as would have got grades G, C and A and above respectively in the old system.
- 5 Fewer grade 9s will be awarded in each subject than A*s previously, rewarding exceptional performance. Other high-achieving students will get a grade 8 or 7.
- 4 A grade 4 and above is a 'standard pass'; this is the minimum level that students need to reach in English and maths, otherwise they will need to continue to study these subjects as part of their post-16 education.
- 3 The Department of Education has said to employers, universities and colleges that if a grade C is their current minimum requirement, then the nearest equivalent is a grade 4.

Headteacher: Ms Sonia Singleton

Deputy Headteachers: Mr Paul Bannister, Mr Ben Rackley

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- 2 For measuring school performance, the Department of Education will publish the proportion of students achieving a grade 5 ('strong pass') and above, a benchmark in line with the expectations of top performing education systems around the world.
- 1 Regulators in Wales and Northern Ireland are not introducing the new 9 to 1 grading scale as part of the changes to GCSEs in their jurisdictions.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Our commitment to supporting your child to reach the highest possible standards remains central to our work. As an 11-16 school young people will stay with us throughout their secondary education, enabling us to build momentum and have real impact. Alongside this focus on qualifications and outcomes, it is vital that we support our students socially and emotionally. This year each year group has a specific member of the pastoral team to help guide and support them:

Year 7 Mrs Cox
 Year 8 Mrs Bramley
 Year 9 Mr Lavender
 Year 10 Mrs Furlong

Mrs Stock is Senior Pastoral Leader for Years 7, 8 and 9. For all matters relating to Year 10, please contact Mr Rackley or Mr Bannister.

If you have any concerns regarding your son or daughter, please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate pastoral team.

Have a good weekend.

Your sincerely,



Sonia Singleton
 Headteacher

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