

Grade Collection: A Guide for Parents and Carers

What is grade collection for?

Grade collection is a way in which the school can keep track of your child's progress. It happens during each half-term and is intended to celebrate your child's attainment and consistent levels of effort across the year. You will regularly receive a copy of the grade collection data; it will show the effort grade and the progress your child is currently making against their targets.

Progress and Effort

On the grade collection sheet you will see various grades and codes. The tables below explain what these codes mean.

Effort (Key Stages 3 and 4)/Commitment to Learning (Key Stage 5)

A. Excellent

You have demonstrated an excellent level of effort. You have consistently met or even exceeded expectations in the work you have undertaken to date. We consider you to be working at your 'Personal Best'!

B. Good

On the whole your effort level is good. Usually you are working near to the peak of your potential, although there may be some exception to this. You should be aiming to secure a Grade 1 in the next assessment.

C. Satisfactory

Your effort level is only fair/uneven, on the evidence of the work produced so far. What are your next steps to improve?

D. Poor

The work you have produced to date demonstrates quite a poor level of effort, given what we know you are capable of and given the opportunities that were available to you. You can do better next time? What are your next steps to improve?

E. Unsatisfactory

Your work reveals little or no recognisable effort on your part. It is well below what you are capable of and is unacceptable for a pupil of your ability. We know that you can do much better.

Progress

Key Stage 3 (years 7 and 8):

At each grade collection pupils receive two progress grades:

- A 'personal' grade based on the progress we expect them to make given their results on leaving primary school.
- The second grade measures progress towards the '**national expectation**' for the end of that academic year.

By meeting the '**national expectation**' for the end of each year a pupil will be '**on track**' to meet the '**national expectation**' at GCSE which is grade 5.

The following codes are used during the process:

- | | |
|----|--|
| ++ | the pupil is working at two or more GCSE grades above their predicted grade and/or National Expected GCSE grade. |
| + | the pupil is working at one GCSE grades above their predicted grade and/or National Expected GCSE grade. |
| 0 | the pupil is working at their predicted and/or National Expected GCSE grades. |
| - | the pupil is working at one GCSE grades below their predicted grade and/or National Expected GCSE grade. |
| -- | the pupil is working at two or more GCSE grades below their predicted grade and/or National Expected GCSE grade. |

Key Stage 4 (years 9, 10 and 11):

If a pupil's estimated grade is the same as or above their predicted grade then they are **'on track'** or **'exceeding'** their GCSE predicted grade which is calculated from Key Stage 2 SAT scores.

In most subjects predicted and estimated grades use the new 1-9 scale where 1 is the lowest grade and 9 the highest. The national expectation is grade 5 this being approximate to a low grade B on the previous scale. The national expectation of the A* to C scale was grade C. As such there is a heightened level of expectation built into the new reformed GCSE qualifications.

The GCSE subjects Business Studies, Design Technology, Psychology, Statistics and Media use the familiar A* to G scale for results in 2018 with these subjects converting to the new grading system for the 2019 results. Please see the 'New grading structure for GCSE' in the table below.

Key Stage 5:

If a student's estimated grade is the same as or above their minimum target grade then they are **'on track'** or **'exceeding'** their A-level/BTEC minimum target grade which is calculated from Key Stage 4 GCSE average point scores.

New grading structure for GCSE

The way that the GCSE is graded is changing, please see the table below that makes a comparison between the current and new grading structure.

The table below sets out how the new GCSE grades compare with the old ones.

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Annotations in the table:
- A callout box around grade 5: "5 and above = top of C and above"
- A callout box around grade 4: "4 and above = bottom of C and above"

(Starting GCSEs, Your guide to exam success. Cambridge University Press Transition Guide, 2015)

Grade collection analyses and follow-up meetings

Your child's Achievement Leader regularly analyses data from grade collections ahead of follow-up meetings with Form Tutors. As a result of these analyses we can quickly identify any changes in effort which, over time, could lead to a drop in attainment and progress.

Predictor data reviews

During years 9 to 13 your child will have regular one to one meetings with a senior member of staff. The results from a grade collection form a really useful basis for discussions of learning between teachers and students. These discussions focus on their current performance and the gap between this and their predicted grades. Also engagement in subjects and any other general well-being matters will be discussed.

Rewards for pupils/students

At key Stages 3 and 4 many pupils often receive certificates of commendation for their attainment, effort and progress. In addition, for each year group the five pupils with the

highest overall effort receive an additional certificate of commendation to recognise their consistent effort.

At Key Stage 5 students are recommended for nomination as 'student of the month'.

Contact with parents and carers

You will regularly receive a copy of the grade collection data, it will show the effort grade and the progress you child is currently making against their targets.

The grade collection system is an effective way of checking on progress. It provides important feedback for pupils/students and parents or carers. The results from a grade collection form a really useful basis for discussions of learning between teachers and pupils/students, between teachers and parents/carers and between parents/carers and pupils/students. From this targets for further development can be made. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school if you would like more help or advice.

Examples of the grade collection information supplied to parents and carers for key stage 3 (years 7 and 8), key stage 4 (years 9, 10 and 11 and key stage 5 (years 12 to 13) can be found at the back of this document.

Distribution of grade collection information to parents and carers

One copy of the grade collection information will be sent home with your child to their home address. In the event that you require an additional copy to be sent to a parent who lives at a different address please inform school and this will be arranged for you.

Careers Education-Information Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Key Stage 3: Years 7 to 8

IAG work is covered in tutorials and delivered by tutors with the guidance of achievement leaders. Assemblies are also opportunities for the delivery of IAG.

Outside organisations and speaker are also invited in to deliver do talks on areas such as sexual health education and safe driving.

In year 7 pupils follow a programme of study that includes: careers, drugs and (Sex and Relationships Education) SRE.

In year 8 pupils follow a programme of study that includes: drug education, emotional health, physical health and SRE.

Key Stage 4: Years 9, 10 and 11

In years 9 and 10 pupils follow a programme of study that includes: learning to learn and drugs education.

In year 10 pupils also get dedicated guidance on economic wellbeing and careers information for one term, which is part of a carousel.

In year 11 pupils follow a programme of study that includes: learning to learn, drugs, global issues and further work on drugs and SRE.

Key Stage 5: Years 12 to 13

Tutor groups look at a range of issues appropriate to the needs of the 6th form students.

Areas of study include:

- Apprenticeships vs University.
- What will it be like to study at university?
- Student Finance & Budgeting.
- Well-being and Mindfulness.
- What are British values?
- Cyber-bullying.
- Racism.
- Climate Change.
- Independent Study Skills.

Guest speakers are resource used to develop initial understanding or further enhance students' awareness of key issues such as:

- SRE (Chlamydia screening).
- Safer driving (includes visits out to roadshows).
- UCAS conventions, careers fair, support for both university and apprenticeships.
- Unifrog presentations and work, careers interviews.

Running throughout the various key stages are varied leadership development opportunities:

- Sixth form student council executive leadership committee roles.
- Main school council membership.
- Main school council leadership roles-Head and Deputy Girl/Boy.
- Mentoring.
- Peer mediation.
- Form captain.

Specific Careers information Advice and Guidance

The school employs an Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) advisor for two days per week. Dedicated one to one interviews with the IAG Officer take place for pupils in year 11 and students in years 12 and 13. This ensures that all pupils and students in the 'Disadvantaged, Most Able and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities' groups have received dedicated interviews.

Furthermore, any pupil in year 11 or student in year 12 (who may be changing study programme from Alder Grange) along with students in year 13 who are unsure as to what career path to take receive a one to one interview with the IAG advisor.

The IAG advisor liaises with the parents of pupils and students at any time should they wish to discuss careers matters.

All looked after pupils and students will receive dedicated one to one interviews with the IAG advisor.

The pupils and students are given the opportunity to gain an awareness of possible careers and the necessary qualifications required.

Glossary

Key Stage 3: Years 7 and 8

Expected Progress: the progress expected of a pupil towards their personal target grade at the end of each year given their starting point. The starting point being the result of the Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Test (SAT) scores which are taken by pupils in year 6.

National Expectation: the national expectation at GCSE is grade 5.

On track: making expected progress to meet target grade or the national expectation.

Exceeding: exceeding the expected progress, could potentially achieve a higher grade than the personal target grade or national expectation.

Effort Grades: these are given by staff to reflect overall effort in lessons and homework. This is on an A to E scale as shown in the box above.

Attendance: rate of attendance since September.

Achievement Points: awarded for excellent levels of achievement and learning in lessons and around school.

Behaviour Points: any behavioural incidents will be recorded as behaviour points.

Key Stage 4: Years 9, 10 and 11

Effort Grades: just as at Key Stage 3 these are given by staff to reflect overall effort in lessons and homework. This is on an A to E scale as shown in the box above.

Predicted GCSE Grade: this is the minimum grade that a pupil should be aiming to achieve. The predicted grade is calculated from Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Test (SAT) scores which are taken by pupils in year 6.

Estimated Grade: this is the grade that staff estimates a pupil will achieve at the end of year 11 if current standards of progress and effort are maintained. Data from previous grade collections is included at each new session so that progress can be monitored.

Attendance: rate of attendance since September.

Achievement Points: awarded for excellent levels of achievement and learning in lessons and around school.

Behaviour Points: any behavioural incidents will be recorded as behaviour points.

Key Stage 5: Years 12 to 13

Commitment to Learning Grades: using the same criteria as effort Grades these are given by staff to reflect overall effort in lessons and homework. This is on an A to E scale as shown in the box above.

Minimum Target Grade (MTG): minimum target grades are calculated from Key Stage 4 GCSE average point scores and much like predicted grades at GCSE, represent the minimum grade that a pupil should be aiming to achieve.

Estimated Grade: this is the grade that staff estimates a student will achieve at the end of year 13 if current standards of progress and effort are maintained. Data from previous grade collections is included at each new session so that progress can be monitored.

Attendance: rate of attendance since September.

Achievement Points: awarded for excellent levels of achievement and learning in lessons and around school.

Behaviour Points: any behavioural incidents will be recorded as behaviour points.

Example of a key stage 3 grade collection report

Achievement Points:

Behaviour Points:0

Attendance: 95.6

Subject	Predicted GCSE grade	Effort Grades & on track					
		Previous effort	Previous ontrack to personal target	Previous ontrack to national expectation	Current effort	Current ontrack to personal target	Current ontrack to national expectation
Art*	7						
Design Technology*	7	A	0	++	A	0	++
Drama	7	A	0	++	A	0	++
English	7	A	0	++	A	0	++
French	7	A	0	++	A	0	++
Geography	7	B	0	++	B	0	++
History	7	A	0	++	B	-	++
Computing	7	A	0	++	A	-	++
Mathematics	7	A	0	++	A	0	++
Music	7	A	0	++	A	0	++
PE	7	B	-	++	A	--	+
RE	7	B	0	++	A	0	++
Science	7	B	-	++	B	--	++
Spanish	7	A	0	++	A	+	++

On track grades		Effort Grades	
These grades indicate if a pupil is on target to achieve their predicted GCSE grade and the national expectation.		Students are given an effort grade by their teacher.	
++	Two grades above target	A	Excellent
+	One grade above target	B	Good
0	On target	C	Satisfactory
-	One grade below target	D	Poor
--	Two grades below target	E	Unsatisfactory

Example of key stage 4 grade collection report

GRADE COLLECTION

Current Attendance:

Achievement Points:0

Behaviour Points:0

Lates:

Recently xxxxx teachers were asked to record effort grades and estimated GCSE grades for each of his subjects and these are shown in the table below. Also shown are the grades he received in the last grade collection.

SUBJECT	Predicted GCSE grades	Previous Year 10 Grades		Current Year 11 Grades	
		Effort Grade	Estimated GCSE	Effort Grade	Current Estimated GCSE Grade
English	8	A	7	A	7
English Literature	8	A	7	A	7
Mathematics	8	A	8	A	7
Biology	8	A	8	B	8
Chemistry	8	A	8	B	8
Physics	8	A	8	A	8
Geography	8	A	7	A	7
Physical Education	8	A	8	A	8
Photography		B		B	
Advice & Guidance		B		C	

Previous Year 10 results	
Effort Rank	36
GCSE Points Score	66.50
English & Maths grade 5 or above	Yes

Current Year 11	
Effort Rank	45
GCSE Points Score	65.50
English & Maths grade 5 or above	Yes

Example of key stage 5 grade collection report

Student Name:

Form:

Attendance:

Behaviour points:

Achievement points:

Subject	MTG	Term1 Projected grade	Term 1 Commitment to learning	Term 2 Projected grade	Term 2 commitment to learning	Term 3 Projected grades	Term 3 commitment learning
English Language	A	A	A				
English Literature	A	A*	A				
Mathematics	A	A	A				
Extended Project	A	A	A				
Key	<p>Minimum Target Grades (MTG's) are based on a student's previous achievement at GCSE. N.B. all grades A-E are pass grades at AS and A2 Level.</p> <p>Projected Final Grades (PrjG), the top grade, is the grade a student would be expected to achieve on present performance.</p> <p>For vocational qualifications, grades are as follows: "D*" Distinction star, "D" Distinction, "M" Merit, "P" Pass, "F" Fail.</p> <p>Commitment to Learning (C2L) grades, the bottom grade, summarize a student's work ethic, conscientiousness, promptness, ability to meet deadlines, etc. They are graded as follows: "A" Excellent, "B" Good, "C" Satisfactory, "D" Unsatisfactory, "E" Poor.</p>						

School Contact Information

If you would like to talk to any of the staff about the points mentioned above please do not hesitate to contact the school on:

Tel: 01706 223171

Email: svarley@aldergrange.lancs.sch.uk