



**Rossett School**  
Success for everyone

November 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Year 9 and 10: National changes to reporting and assessment affecting Rossett reports**

Your son/daughter has recently started studying towards his/her GCSEs. As you may be aware the Government are reforming GCSEs and have created new specifications for a number of subjects. The exam regulator, Ofqual, has decided that the new GCSE qualifications will:

- be more demanding
- be linear, meaning that students take all their exams at the end of a, usually two year, course
- have the non-exam assessment (coursework or controlled assessment) removed or reduced in the majority of GCSEs
- have a new national grading scale from 9 to 1

These reformed GCSEs will be introduced gradually over three years from September 2015. Students taking GCSEs over this period, including your son/daughter, will therefore receive in their reports and in their final examination grades a mixture of '9 to 1' and 'A\* to G' grades. Students will not lose out as a result of the changes. The Department for Education are reassuring schools, students and parents that they will use a statistical method (known as comparable outcomes) so that:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C and the bottom third of students gaining a grade B. This has been defined as a 'good' pass by the Department for Education

An example of a nationally available detailed conversion chart is available on the reverse of this letter.

*The enclosed report details how well your son/daughter is progressing in each of their subjects. The subjects where your son/daughter has a target and predicted grade represented as a **number** are those that will follow the new style of GCSE specification. The subjects where **letters** are still used are the current/old GCSEs.*

We appreciate that there is a lot of new information to take in so we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to an Information Evening in the Main Hall, from 6:45pm on Thursday 12 November. The evening will consist of an overview of the main curriculum changes, an explanation of the new grading structure; and a more detailed look at the changes to the new English and Maths GCSEs. The evening is for parents as the students will have had this information in assemblies and will last approximately 45 minutes.

If you have any other questions then please don't hesitate to get in touch with your Director of Learning (Year 9: Ms Cameron ext 202 / Year 10: Mr Surtees ext 252).

Yours sincerely

Mr C Stone  
Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum and Data

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Table converting the current style of letter GCSE grade into the new number style

Current style of GCSE grade	Simplistic conversion to new style of numbered GCSE grade	Detailed conversion to new style of numbered GCSE grade
A*	Half of A* becomes Grade 9, the remainder Grade 8	
A	Grade 7	Most would achieve a Grade 7 but some would be Grade 6 and some Grade 8
B	Grade 6	Split between Grades 5 and 6
C	Mostly Grade 4, some Grade 5	Split between Grades 4 and 5
D	Grade 3	Mostly Grade 3, some Grade 2
E	Grade 2	Grade 2
F	Grade 1	Mostly Grade 1, some Grade 2
G		Grade 1
U	Grade 0	Grade 0