

Changes in curriculum and national performance and accountability measures

In the next few years we will see many changes to the National Curriculum in secondary schools; some will affect all students and some will affect only a few. The changes are many, however please be assured that the Academy has considered these changes for some time and we have planned appropriately in order to embrace them and ensure a smooth transition.

A new National Curriculum came into force in September 2014. This includes some changes to content and we have adjusted our schemes of work accordingly. National Curriculum Levels have been abolished and the Academy is moving to a system in Years 7 and 8, initially in English and Maths only of monitoring performance against targets (key performance indicators). This process will be explained in detail to parents concerned at parents' evenings.

GCSE examinations

GCSE examinations are the focus of a number of changes, some of which have already taken place and some of which are quite significant. New GCSEs are being introduced in Mathematics, English Language and English Literature for first teaching this September with the first examination in 2017. **Pupils in Year 10, therefore, will be the first to sit the new examinations.** Teaching for the remaining GCSE subjects will start from 2016 onwards. The new GCSE will be graded on a **numerical scale, 9 to 1**, rather than using the existing alphabetical scale, A* to G. This means that from 2017 until 2019, a mix of numbers and grades will be awarded. In addition students will sit all examinations at the end of Year 11 – there will be no opportunity in future to sit GCSE examinations early.

School Performance

The Government is changing how it measures the performance of schools. No longer will it simply measure the proportion of students securing 5 A* to C grades, but will instead look at a system of measuring progress students make from joining the school in Year 7 to leaving in Year 11. We are delighted that this measure so far has indicated that Stockport Academy is adding value to students from their starting points at a figure significantly above National Average.

Schedule of Changes

Year 11– This will be the last cohort to take the existing GCSE courses in all subjects. In Sixth Form they will take the new linear A-Levels in most subjects, except Maths, Further Maths and Design Technology. GCSE results will be A*-G.

Year 10 – These students will be the first year group to sit the new GCSEs in some subjects (Mathematics, English Language and English Literature). They will take new linear A-levels in all subjects.

Year 9 and below – These students will take the new GCSEs in most subjects and will receive a mix of grades (A*-G) and numbers (9-1 – 9 being highest) in their results.

Year 8 – These students will take a full suite of 9-1 GCSEs

Year 7 – These students will take a full suite of 9-1 GCSEs. In addition this cohort, it is suggested, will be the first for whom it will be compulsory to study EBACC; Maths, English, Science, languages and either history or geography.