Dear Parents,

This is an explanation of the way in which we set targets and report on progress in Years 7, 8 and 9. Importantly, our system is based on one set of grades throughout Years 7-11 – GCSE grades. Our hope is that this will make things that much easier for students, parents and teachers to monitor progress at Wallingford School.

G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A* and new additional content/skills
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Figure 1: The new GCSE 9-1 grades, with the 'Old Style' A-G grades for comparison*

Minimum Expected GCSE Grades

All students in KS3 will now be issued with three '**Minimum Expected GSCE Grades**'; one grade for English, another for Maths and a third for all other subjects. These grades should act as a guide to what students have the potential to achieve by the end of Yr11 across their various subjects.

Minimum Expected GCSE Grades	
English	6
Maths	5
Other Subjects	6

Figure 2: An example of a set of student 'Minimum Expected GCSE Grades'

How are these grades calculated?

The grades are primarily based on the results each student achieved at the end of KS2. They should be achievable, but aspirational. More precisely, for each student, they should reflect the achievement of the top 20% of similar students (KS2 scores, gender, age) nationally.

For those students where the calculated minimum expected grade is below a Grade 4, we will try to offer extra support to help increase rates of progress.

Target Zones

The **Minimum Expected GCSE Grades** relate to the **End of Year 11**.

To help assess progress towards these grades, we have also created yearly '**Target Zones**'. These zones will be shown on the first page of each Progress Report. Being within the 'Green' section, for the current year, would mean the student is 'on target' to achieve the **Minimum Expected GSCE Grades.**

The example below shows a Year 8 student's Target Zones, based on GCSE grades of 5/6.

'Old Style' GCSE Grades	Entry Level	G	F	E	D	C		B
GCSE Grades	EL	1	2	3	4	5	6

English Target Zone

Maths Target Zone

Other Subjects Target Zone

Figure 3: An example set of 'Target Zones' for a Year 8 student

End of Year Predictions

Three times a year, students will be provided with an End of Year Prediction for each subject. These grade indicates our judgement of what the student could achieve by the end of the current year. Each prediction will be colour coded orange, green or blue depending on whether this prediction is 'below', 'within' or 'above' the target zone.

Predictions with a '+' symbol indicate a level of performance that is very close to the grade above, including significant aspects of work that are already at the higher grade.

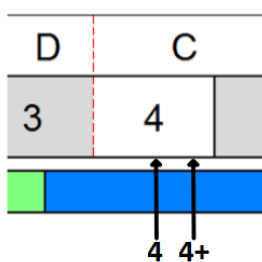EL, or 'Entry Level' is just below the GCSE 1-9 scale.

Subject	End of Year 8 Prediction	
English	3	🟩
Maths	2+	🟩
Art	3+	🟦
Drama	3	🟩
DT	3	🟩
French	2+	🟩
Geography	2	🟧

Figure 4: An example of a set of End of Year 8 predictions

Figure 5: This shows how the whole grade and '+' predictions are positioned on the 9-1 scale

More information, regarding predictions, can be found on the next page.

The Minimum Expected GCSE Grades, Target Zones and first set of predictions are now available on our school VLE (please see the next page for instructions on accessing them).

We hope that this system is clear, simple and effective. We believe that linking predictions directly to GCSE grades will make progress more transparent and allow us to continue to celebrate success and offer support to students where it is needed.

Kind Regards

Mr N Lamb
Assistant Headteacher
Wallingford School

<u>Accessing documents on the school VLE</u>

To access student progress documents on the school VLE, please follow these instructions:

1. **Click on the Children button on the VLE front page Parents section OR select Your Children from the Parents menu.** *This takes you to the Portal Home page.*

2. **Click on a child.** *This takes you to the Welcome tab of the View Learner page for that child.*

3. **Select the Documents tab.** *You will see a list of any available documents.*

4. **Click on the blue PDF link in the File column.** *Depending on your browser settings, this will either open or download the PDF document.*

<u>Notes regarding predictions and target zones</u>

- The old GCSE letter grades are no longer in use. However, since so many of us are familiar with A*-G grades, I have provided the following table, which provides a rough link between the new and outgoing grade sets.

G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A* and new additional content/skills
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

- Our predictions are accurate at the time they are published; they may well change during the course of the year to reflect ongoing assessment.
- Predictions that are coloured orange indicate progress that is slightly below the suggested 'Target Zone'. This will be relatively common and shouldn't necessarily be a cause for concern; it should be used as an opportunity to reflect on whether any improvements can be made in those subjects.
- The yearly target zones are linear, e.g. suggest that students should make similar amount of progress each year. In reality, this won't always be the case.
- PE predictions are based solely on practical skills. This does not necessarily reflect the likely achievement in GCSE PE, as this course also involves a significant theory (written) component.
- In Y8 and Y9 students study two languages. In Year 8, a student's End of Year Prediction in the second language is likely to be lower than that for their first language as it will be the first year of study in the subject.