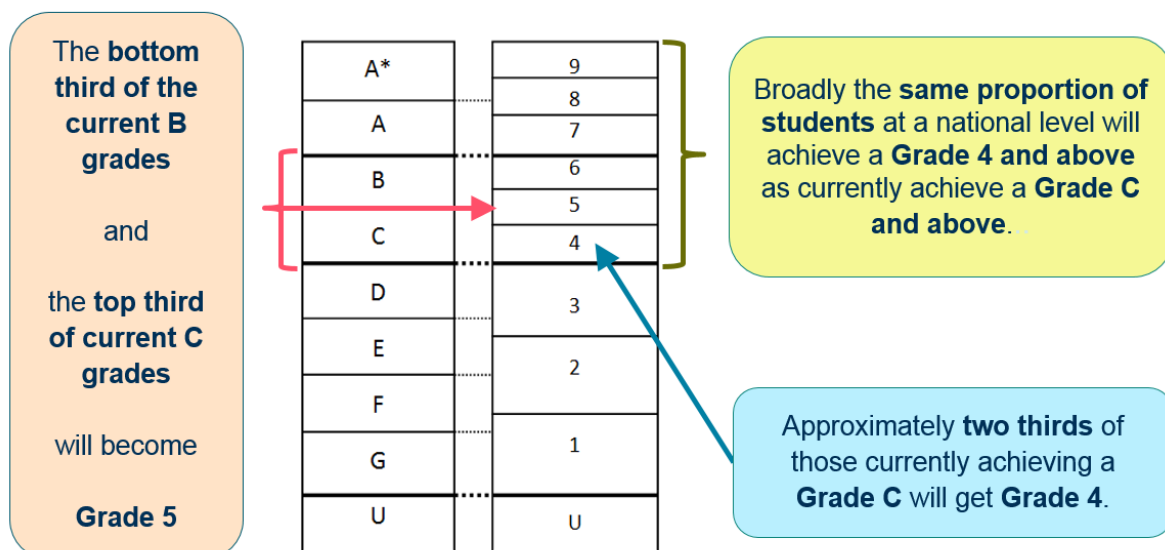


New GCSE grades – information for Year 10 and 11

GCSE grades:

The new GCSE grading scheme extends from Grade 1 to Grade 9, and replaces Grade G to Grade A* in stages, starting with English and Mathematics in 2015, and then most other subjects for teaching from September 2016. The scheme, as we understand it at present, is best explained in a diagram:



- Grade 9 will be awarded to the top 20% of outcomes awarded at Grade 7 **nationally** in any subject

Targets:

Replacing 'levels' at Key Stage 3 has not been easy for any school, and each school will have devised their own methodology. However, at NTS, we continue to set subject targets using prior attainment outcomes, baseline test outcomes, and indicators of future performance. The objective is for all targets to be aspirational and to set high expectations for each pupil. All targets are now expressed as GCSE grades.

Current Grades:

In both the Progress Review and the Full Report, the subject Current Grade will be a combination of:

- the outcome from the mock exam, moderated using teacher professional judgement against other assessed work
- homework records
- classwork records.

If a pupil exceeds their target grade at the end of the year, then the target grade is likely to be increased during the next target review cycle (Autumn term). However, if a pupil does not meet their target grade, then the original target could remain (at the school's discretion), because it represents our minimum expectations for future performance.

For mock examinations, we have devised a mathematical model that replicates the historical pattern for determining grade boundaries, and applied it to all subjects. This will be fair and equitable across all subjects. The first cohort of pupils sit the new GCSE exams in the Summer of 2017, and this will enable us to validate our data and adjust the system if required.