



15th October 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Minimum GCSE Grades

Scaled Scores and SATs

When a student joins Shrewsbury Academy, they come to us with data that is taken from their previous school. This comes in the form of a scaled score out of 120 and a Teacher Assessment in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science. A student's scaled score is based on the marks they achieve in their KS2 SATs (Standard Assessment Tasks). A scaled score of 100 will always represent the national expected standard. Students joining us from Welsh schools have their KS2 levels rather than a scaled score.

How are minimum GCSE grades produced?

As a school we use an organisation called Fischer Family Trust (FFT) to produce targets based on performance at Key Stage 2. The FFT estimates student achievement and provides data and analysis to all schools and LAs in England and Wales. FFT profiles the student and produces an estimate based on what a student with a similar profile at KS2 achieved at the end of Year 11, in the top 20% of schools in the country.

The estimates of future performance are generally shown in two forms:

- the 'chance' of attaining a range of individual grades (e.g. 40% chance of attaining a GCSE grade 6 or a 20% chance of attaining a grade 7)
- the most likely grade based on the level or grade achieved by more than 50% of students

GCSE grades are set using KS2 assessment data processed by the FFT. Our minimum GCSE grades are designed to ensure all students make AT LEAST expected progress, as far as this can be estimated. Estimates are used by teachers to inform the setting of ambitious and aspirational grades for students.

A range of grades are shared with students. Our minimum expected GCSE grade comes from the expected grade for the school to be in the top 20% of schools. It is this grade that is used for all internal monitoring of a student's performance.

Poor GCSE grade – one grade lower than the minimum grade

Good GCSE grade – one grade higher (where possible) than the minimum grade

Exceptional GCSE grade – two grades higher (where possible) than the minimum grade

Example:

For this child, the grade that is mostly achieved by similar students is a Grade 6 (26%). However, there is also a 32% chance of doing better than 6.



When are GCSE grades set?

In the Autumn term, grades are set for all Year 7 students and confirmed for Year 10 students. In the summer term, adjustments can be made in all year groups, if necessary, where a student is regularly performing above their minimum GCSE grade.

For this academic year 2020/21, Year 7 students have completed 4 cognitive ability tests, which produce scores in verbal, non-verbal, quantitative and spatial reasoning. The Fischer Family Trust will use these scores to produce estimated grades for each child and for each of their subjects.

Yours faithfully

R Hayes

Mrs R Hayes
Assistant Headteacher Quality of Education