

12th June 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about changes to the specification and grading of GCSE maths which will effect current Year 9 students from next year. Students starting this GCSE in September 2015 will receive a final grade ranging from 1-9 instead of the familiar G-A* grades at the end of their course. This change is happening nationally for all students of maths.

The details of these grades for the maths GCSE are outlined in the table below.

Tier of Entry		New Grade	Old Style GCSE Grade
		U	U
Foundation		1	G/F
Foundation		2	E
Foundation		3	D
Foundation	Higher	4	C
Foundation	Higher	5	C/B
	Higher	6	B
	Higher	7	A
	Higher	8	A/A*
	Higher	9	Higher than the current A*

The new GCSE specification is intended to provide a higher standard of assessment than previously and this will be reflected in the level of difficulty of the new higher and foundation tiers of entry.

In the past most of the students at Kings Langley would have sat the higher paper, with fewer than 10% of students sitting the foundation tier. However for the new specification we are expecting a significant increase in the number of students who will be entered for this new more challenging foundation tier.

This is likely to mean that sets 1 and 2 in maths will take the higher papers and all other sets will take the foundation papers at the end of their course.

I hope that this information is useful in understanding the new GCSE grades and that it will reassure you about your child's tier of entry when their sets are allocated at the start of Year 10.

Yours faithfully

Mr B Wilshaw

Learning Area Leader Mathematics

