



HEAD MASTER

Safeguarding our students continues to be a school priority. Parents are asked to note the two following items.

SAFETY ON THE SCHOOL SITE—VISITORS CAR PARK AT THE END OF THE DAY

May I remind parents that no car should be on the school site without permission from me. The visitors car park is dangerous for students between 3:45-4:00pm. Even when permission is granted, a vehicle must be on-site before 3:45pm and not attempt to leave until after 4:00pm. It is essential that boys can leave school safely at the end of the school day.

CYBER BULLYING

The pressures on young people today are immense. Increased use of social media has made them vulnerable to cyber bullying. The school and parents need do everything we can by talking to your son to raise awareness, and develop strategies to keep him safe whilst online.

This week all boys in Years 7-10 have had an assembly on cyber bullying. The content of the assembly included:

- ◆ Definitions of 'cyber bullying' and 'internet troll'.
- ◆ Words associated with online bullying and harassment.
- ◆ Why people cyber bully.
- ◆ The impact of cyber bullying on victims.
- ◆ What the law says about cyber bullying.
- ◆ The features of cyber bullying.
- ◆ What individuals can do to take control, stay safe and address cyber bullying.
- ◆ Sources of help.

You can find a copy of the assembly powerpoint presentation and teaching notes on the parent portal on FROG.

Further sources of help can be found at:

www.stopcyberbullying.org

<https://www.cybersmile.org>

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

www.bullying.co.uk

www.childline.org.uk

HOUSE TOTALS

The House year runs from Easter to Easter and so we have recently begun a new year.

The results for the 2016-17 year were as follows:

- 1st: More
- 2nd: Foxe
- 3rd: Newton
- 4th: School
- 5th: Burleigh
- 6th: Curteis

Miss Henry—House Co-ordinator

SIXTH FORM INDUCTION WEEK

All current Year 11 students who are intending to study in the Sixth Form must attend the Year 12 Induction Week which will take place in the week commencing 3 July 2017. This will provide a full week of A level teaching and many subjects will both introduce and start the course. The induction week exists for the following reasons:

- ◆ A level courses are demanding and the Induction Programme will help to prepare students for the rigours of A level study. Some teachers will provide reading and other work to complete over the holidays which will facilitate a strong start to the course next year.
- ◆ Some skills essential for A level success are not required at GCSE. Study at Advanced Level requires a balanced combination of communication, problem-solving, analytical and evaluative skills. No matter how convincingly a student can process material at GCSE level, they will fall short of the standard required at Advanced Level if they cannot assess evidence, identify arguments, and communicate their ideas in a coherent and lucid manner. Moreover, A levels make much higher demands of independent study, note-making, learning and understanding.
- ◆ All A levels are now linear and in common with most schools nationally, King's will not be studying AS levels. This makes it very important that students are on the most appropriate courses in September.

The Induction Programme will take place in the School Hall, the Sixth Form Centre and in the classrooms where Year 13 lessons would normally be taught. Students will attend introductory sessions in each of their chosen subjects. In addition they will be guided on the ethos of the Sixth Form and the standards expected, and complete an online ALIS questionnaire which, together with their GCSE results, will form the basis of their academic targets next year.

YEAR 9 PLACES

The school has a number of places available in current Year 9. If you know of any boy who you think might benefit from an education at King's please ask their parents to contact Louise Wood, Admissions Officer, using the following email address:

louise.wood@kings.lincs.sch.uk

Included at the end of this Newsletter is a section on Frequently Asked Questions with regard to the GCSE Grade Changes in 2017.

Despite the increasing pressure on the boys, I am delighted to report another set of notable extra-curricular achievements from this term. Congratulations to the boys and thank you to all staff for giving up their own time to make these achievements possible.

I wish you and your family a relaxing half-term break.

F Hedley—Head Master

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

ROTARY CLUB SWIMARATHON

A group of King's students took part in this year's Rotary Club Swimarathon and they raised a total of £1,446 which exceeds that of any previous year and is a huge achievement for the students. Well done to:

Form 7B: James Dagnall, Thomas Dell, Henry Edwards, William George, Noah Hollingworth, Iain McDonald, Peter McKee, Myles Sadler and George Young.

Form 7C: Jake Dawson, Harry Evans, Tom Ford, Luke Hall, Benjamin Halliday and Henry Herries.

Form 7F: Harry Hulse, Jacob Pamham and Oliver Poole

Form 7M: Harvey Brett, Thomas Craddock, Tom Fulcher, Daniel Holland, Marco Ludlam, Jai Mistry-Moulton, William Needle, Matt Pickering, Will Richardson and Bradley Stevens.

Form 7N: Jacob Boneham, Daniel Britten, Isaac Foster, Rowan McGorty, Henry Pearce, Kyle Polzia and Harvey Tristan.

Form 7S: Sajeel Bhat, Max Pickles, Jack Street and Sam Thompson.

Year 8: Dawid Grab, Jack Livingstone and Adam Monaghan.

Year 13: Ben Cowling, Will Cowling, Nick Farrington, Rory Grindey and Cameron Simmons.

Mrs Bond—Cover Supervisor and Swimarathon Co-ordinator

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

72 Year 10 students completed their Bronze DoE expedition practice during the weekend of 20-21 May. This involved walking for 2 days and camping overnight at Holwell near Melton Mowbray. This was a fantastic achievement by all involved. They battled through rain and hail to complete the first part of the expedition section of their Award. The assessed expedition will take place in June when they have to do it all over again!

Mrs Hamblett—DoE Co-ordinator

DEPARTMENT NEWS

ENGLISH

Young Writer of the Year

Six budding young writers from Year 8 presented their short detective stories to Grantham's Isaac Newton Centre Library. Their short stories will sit beside other famous books from crime writers such as Ian Rankin, Agatha Christie and, of course, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Inspired by one of Arthur Conan Doyle's short Sherlock Holmes stories, *The Red Headed League*, the boys wrote a six to eight thousand word detective story.

Their stories range from cryptic murder in the heart of Paris to deception within the CIA headquarters in Washington DC. English Teacher Mr Johnson said, "I was amazed at the quality and imagination of the students' work. All of the stories were exciting to read, they captured the thriller element of the genre, superbly."

The six short books were chosen from over ninety novellas. Each of the 13 year old students presented readings from their stories to an invited audience in the school Old School. The invited audience participated in a promenade-style presentation of students' work before being submitted for the *Young Writer of the Year* accolade. Winners were rewarded with a public reception at Grantham Library. "I thoroughly enjoyed writing my story," said Thomas Linford, "and will probably write more in the future."

Grantham Librarian Charlotte Caves explained, "We are delighted to be working in partnership with The King's School and look forward to offering more opportunities to all schools in the future." The books are currently available for the public to pick up and read at Grantham's Isaac Newton Centre Library for two weeks.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Earlier this term, Sixth Former Harry Brewin and Head of Cricket, Mr Richardson, were fortunate to meet and have a net session with England's all-time leading run scorer and ex-captain Alistair Cook at Lords as part of a select group.

Harry enjoyed an hour bowling and batting with Alistair, whilst other notable current or ex-England faces appeared such as Monty Panesar, who joined the students in bowling against Alistair.

They then had a tour around Lords Cricket Ground, including the home dressing room and the prestigious pavilion.

To finish off a great experience, the students were escorted to a nearby restaurant where they enjoyed a fantastic meal before Alistair had to leave to attend a training session with his Essex team mates.

Harry commented that "it was an absolute pleasure to be in the same company with such a successful and humble sportsman, and it is an experience that I will never forget".



DEPARTMENT NEWS (Cont.../)

RUGBY

As reported in the last edition of the Newsletter (March) Matt Law represented England in the Counties U18 in a two Test series against Ireland Clubs and Counties U18s in Dublin during the Easter break.

Matt has played for the Newark Club since the age of 11, having previously been at the Nottingham Forest Football Academy. He has represented Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire (NLD), as well as being part of the Leicester Tigers Developing Player Programme from the ages of 13-16. This season he has been a pivotal part of the Club's first team.



Having performed well for the NLD in a losing season, he was selected for trials for the Midlands squad to play against the North, and on the back of a strong performance for the Midlands, was selected for England Counties.

There were two training camps, playing against Leicester Grammar School and the Leicester Tigers U18, before heading to Dublin for a week-long tour. He started the first of the Tests, played at Ashbourne RUFC, but the Irish opposition proved too strong, winning 29-17. In the second Test Matt came off the bench, but was not able to avert another defeat as England went down 24-13 to their Gaelic adversaries.

So few young men of Matt's age have the skill and opportunity to play for their country in any sport, and we commend him on this achievement.

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Students from Year 12 have been selected in the NLD (Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Derbyshire) U18 squad next season after playing several trial games for the NLD U17 squad this season.

They are: William Helliwell, Joshua Beavis, Alex Henderson, Matthew Mallinson, Joshua Peters, Max Hubbard, Findlay Tweedie and Connor White; and congratulations to Tom Green who achieves county honours for Leicestershire.

Well done to all boys in reaching counties representative level.

LEICESTER TIGERS DPP PROGRAMME

Congratulations to the following Year 8 boys who have made it through to the Leicester Tigers 'Developing Player Programme': Ben Daniels, Joe Dickenson, Will Dixon, Tate Emery Peters, Max Fairlie and Joseph Whaley.

WATER POLO

Well done to Noah Cadby, Jermaine Cann-Livingstone, David Evans, Will Herring, Kieran Morris, Henry Price, Owen Shaw, Will Shennan, Matthew Smith and Aaron Trevor for their recent performance at the National Age Group Plate competition held in Manchester.

FOOTBALL

Well done to the Caythorpe and Fulbeck U13 football team who have been crowned league champions and have been promoted for the second year running—with only one league and one cup defeat this season. The team includes King's boys: Joe Dickinson, Joseph Whaley, Tom Lyons, Jack Ingamells, Mackenzie Foat, and Alex Clarkson.

DUATHLON

Following on from his 2016 victory at Windsor, Sixth Former Seamus Sheard became a back to back national champion as he won his age group at the 2017 British Age Group Standard Distance Duathlon Championship last month.

Seamus competed in the U20 age group, completing the standard distance in a winning time of 1 hour, 57 minutes and 51 seconds. The event includes a 10km run, 39km on the bike and a 5km run.

Well done Seamus.



CRICKET

The Year 7 and Year 8 teams remain undefeated with notable achievements from Year 7 batsman Max Pickles (39) and Matt Barry (38*). In Year 8 Dan Frost (43) batted superbly well in their victory against Leicester Grammar and in the same game Archie Cropper secured his maiden five wicket haul which will see his name entered onto the honours board in the Long Room. A mention for Year 9 batsman Ravi Yarwood-Paintal who scored his first of what we hope will be a number of half centuries (52*) in the victory against Leicester Grammar School.

DEPARTMENT NEWS (Cont.../)

ATHLETICS

The school is delighted to report the following success in athletics competitions:

TRACK & FIELD TEAM CUP—LINCOLNSHIRE ROUND

Year 8: Second position

Top points scorers were Jonathan Esiwe, Tate Emery-Peters and Matt Darlington.

Year 10: Second position

Top points scorers were Emyr Jenkins, Sheldon Fivaz, Taylor Jordan and Lewis Wilby.

DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Junior Boys (Years 8 and 9)

- Jordan Seetul Drew (First, 100m)
- Gareth Lee (First, 800m)

Intermediate Boys (Years 10 and 11)

- Dexter Bickmore (First, High Jump)
- Taylor Jordan (First, 300m)
- Lewis Wilby (First, Javelin)

BASKETBALL

Adam Cunningham of Year 9 attended trials for the Lincolnshire U15 Basketball team this week and has been selected. Congratulations Adam.



GYMNASTICS



Well done to Year 7 students Jack Barnes, Myles Sadler, Sam Hammond, Jake Dawson and Harry Clement on achieving sixth place in the Gymnastics National Finals.

MUSIC

We were pleased to receive an ISM (Incorporated Society of Musicians) Trust Silver Certificate in recognition of the school's 2016 GCSE achievements for grades A* - C.

Mr Lond—Director of Music

MOCK ELECTION

As a reaction to current affairs, students in Years 7 to 10 have taken part in a 'Mock Election' as part of a project for PDC. Boys put themselves forward to stand for different parties as Party Leader:

The Green Party	Joseph Farrington (Year 10)
Conservatives	Marco Pierbattisti (Year 10)
Labour	Taran Gurung (Year 9)
Liberal Democrats	Anders Fitzpatrick-Robinson (Year 8)

Each party created their own manifesto along with various aims and objectives. The boys emulated the 'real' political parties and their leaders to create campaign videos which were shown throughout the different year groups. These videos gave the boys a chance to address all students involved and to give them Party ideology and why each Party deserves a vote.

The different parties were then open to question and answer sessions where other boys could ask the various leaders anything they wanted to know. The Party Leaders anticipated a range of things they may be asked and some even wrote a speech to give during these sessions. The boys were very persuasive and handled the sometimes challenging questions very well.



After receiving information about the mock election, all boys in Years 7 to 10 were asked if they would like to register to vote. This meant the boys were added to the 'King's Electoral Register' and were issued a polling card. Over 70% of students registered to vote.

The results of the mock election were as follows:

1st:	Conservatives	31% of votes
2nd:	Liberal Democrats	29% of votes
3rd:	The Green Party	22% of votes
4th:	Labour	18% of votes



This was a great effort by all those students involved. This project has given the boys an insight into how the real General Election works and the processes involved in being able to vote for the future.

Miss Leek—Head of PDC

CCF NEWS

FLYING SCHOLARSHIP

As reported in the March edition of the King's Newsletter, William Proctor of Year 13, had been selected for an Air League Flying Scholarship in 2017. Further news is that William has been awarded The Sir Michael Knight Flying Scholarship—set up in honour of the RAF Charitable Trust's first Chairman. There are only 9 places awarded to ATC or CCF in the whole country and very few CCF boys or girls have ever been awarded the scholarship. Each scholar was selected for their flying capabilities and potential to achieve a successful career in aviation.

William will attend a six week summer school at Tayside Aviation comprising of 33 hours SEP flying training, PPL examination modules and online ground school training facilities. He will graduate with a full Private Pilot License, and during university he will be asked to join the University Air Squadron as a Senior Cadet Pilot.

William was nominated for the Scholarship by Flt Lt Barton and Lt Col Ogg as he is one of our top performing senior cadets and is a credit to the CCF Contingent. He had all the qualities and qualifications to compete at the highest level, as proven by the successful selection.

Below are some pictures of William's journey.



Below: Flt Lt Barton, Flt Stg Proctor, Flt Lt Dominic and the Head Master discussing William's chances of being a typhoon pilot and offering congratulations.



MARCH HARE

Lt Col Ogg reports that the March Hare held at the end of April was the best exercise he has seen King's CCF run.

116 cadets attended and all went through Camp Craft, Cooking, Building Bashes, Working as a Team, Leadership Exercises, Patrolling, First Aid Skills, Camouflage, Concealment training and sleeping out overnight.

All cadets involved are now up to standard for both RAF and Army Summer Camps. Star passes and results will be put on 'Westminster' and then be taken through for the Bi-Annual Inspection Report.

Staff worked tirelessly and this showed with the teamwork and cadet development achieved.

Below is the March Hare winning team for 2017:



SPARE UNIFORM

CCF uniform should be returned to SSI Pulfrey when a cadet either leaves the Contingent or comes to the end of his natural term.

Please would parents check bedrooms/bags and send in any spare CCF uniform items to SSI Pulfrey.

With thanks.

Continued .../

CCF NEWS continued .../

ROYAL MARINES

The CCF Contingent enjoyed a visit from two Royal Marines who were at King's as part of a Royal Navy Visibility Team.

Cadets received a presentation on equipment used by the RM and some pictures of their 30 mile yomp across Dartmoor as the climax to their Recruit training. They then had a taste of RM physical training.



Cadets going through some Royal Marine exercises (below):



CCF DIARY DATES

Contingent Dinner:	21 June 2017
Army Section Summer Camp:	24 June to 1 July 2017 at Wathgill
RAF Section: Flying at RAF Cranwell:	4 July 2017
RAF Section: Trip to Duxford:	8 July 2017
Lt Col R Ogg	
Contingent Commander	

KING'S NEWSLETTER

Items for the King's Newsletter should be submitted to Mrs Orrey, PA to the Head Master, at least 10 days prior to the end of each term.

(su.orrey@kings.lincs.sch.uk)

PTFA NEWS

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Wondering what to do with your Year 11s black blazer, or your Year 13s maroon one? If you don't have a keepsake box of treasures charting your son's progress from his nursery to teenage years, then the PTFA Shop will gladly receive uniform you no longer need. Items of uniform can be taken to the School Office to be passed onto the PTFA.

Has your son outgrown, or soon will outgrow, or lost items of school uniform? The PTFA Shop stocks a range of secondhand uniform, including PE kit, which is easy to request—contact the PTFA via the School Office or kingsptfa.uniform@yahoo.com. Prices range from £1 for gloves, scarves, hats and ties; £2 for boots; to £5 for blazers. The Shop is open on Mondays in term time by prior arrangement for boys at 12:45-1:30pm. Requested items can be collected on Mondays from the School Office. Please let us know if your request is urgent when you order an item.

Please support the

King's Annual BALL

2017

Saturday, October 7th, 2017
at Belton Woods Hotel, Grantham

All proceeds to the King's School PTFA
Annual Raffle Draw & Cash Bar

For tickets please call Julie on 07973 262322
or email jreid342001@yahoo.co.uk

Black Tie • Tickets £40pp

Starts 7pm • Dining 8pm
Carriages at Midnight

Live music by the King's School Soul Band
plus supporting entertainment

Designed by
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LITERACY FOCUS—TERM 6

Spelling (Sections 1 and 2).

The Year 7 Spelling Bee takes place in this term.



DATES FOR DIARIES—EVENTS DURING TERM 6 (2016-17)

WEEK COMMENCING 5 JUNE—WEEK 35 (B) - YEAR 10 EXAMINATION WEEK (CAT4) & EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Monday 5 June	TERM BEGINS
Wednesday 7 June	U14 Cricket v Worksop (A) - 2:00pm U12 Cricket v Lincoln Minster (H) - 2:00pm U13 Cricket v Lincoln Minster (H) - 2:00pm

WEEK COMMENCING 12 JUNE—WEEK 36 (A) - EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS ALL WEEK

Monday 12 June	Year 7 Geography Fieldwork
Tuesday 13 June	Year 7 Geography Fieldwork Londonthorpe Church Concert—7:00pm
Wednesday 14 June	Year 7 Geography Fieldwork School Council Meeting—12 noon - Old School U15 & U14 Cricket v Loughborough (A) - 2:00pm U13 & U12 Cricket v Loughborough (H) - 2:00pm
Thursday 15 June	Year 10 History Trip—Durham
Weekend	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

WEEK COMMENCING 19 JUNE—WEEK 37 (B) - EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS ALL WEEK

Monday 19 June	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Music Parents' Group Meal—7:30pm
Tuesday 20 June	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork
Wednesday 21 June	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork Year 12 UCAS Apply Day 1st XI Cricket v Loughborough (A) - 2:00pm Annual CCF Regimental Dinner—6:30 for 7:00pm
Thursday 22 June	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork U12 Cricket v Worksop (A) - 2:30pm PTFA Meeting—7:30pm in Room 34 Bamberg Exchange—to 30 June
Friday 23 June	Year 12 Trip to Birmingham University
Weekend	CCF Camp (24 June to 1 July) Silver Duke of Edinburgh (practice)

WEEK COMMENCING 26 JUNE—WEEK 38 (A)

Monday 26 June	Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice concludes OPEN EVENING—PLEASE NOTE THAT SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 2:45PM FOR BOYS
Tuesday 27 June	U14 Cricket v Lincoln Minster (A) - 2:00pm
Wednesday 28 June	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork House Assemblies—Curteis (Old School) & Newton (Hall) U15 Cricket v Worksop (A) - 2:00pm Euan Coulthard Memorial Match at Belvoir Cricket Club—5:00pm
Thursday 29 June	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork U15 Cricket v Lincoln Minster (A) - 2:00pm Sixth Form Leavers' Meal—evening
Friday 30 June	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition departs 1st XI Cricket v MCC (HO) - 11:30am
Weekend	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

DATES FOR DIARIES—EVENTS DURING TERM 6 (2016-17)

WEEK COMMENCING 3 JULY—WEEK 39 (B)

Monday 3 July	New Year 7 Intake Evening
Tuesday 4 July	Year 6 Taster Day Newton Lecture—Professor Andrei Zvelindovsky—Old School 1st XI Cricket v Leicester Grammar (A) - 2:00pm Summer Music Concert—Head Master's Garden—7:00pm
Wednesday 5 July	House Assemblies—More (Hall) & School (Old School) Year 9 Geography Fieldwork
Thursday 6 July	Year 9 Geography Fieldwork Burghley Lecture—Professor David Bates—Old School 1st XI Cricket v Old Boys' T20 (H) - 5:00pm
Friday 7 July	Year 9 Geography Fieldwork

WEEK COMMENCING 10 JULY—WEEK 40 (A)

Monday 10 July	Battlefields Trip Departs (returns on Wednesday 12 July) Year 10 Parents' Evening—4:30-7:00pm—School Hall
Tuesday 11 July	House Activities Day Year 11—Alton Towers Trip Year 7 Trip to Northern Germany (returns on 17 July)
Wednesday 12 July	House Assemblies—Foxe (Old School) & Burleigh (Hall)
Thursday 13 July	Rugby Trip Departs to Canada (returns on 24 July)
Friday 14 July	1st XI v Old Boys' (H) - 11:00am

WEEK COMMENCING 17 JULY—WEEK 41 (B)

Tuesday 18 July	Founders' Day Service—9:45am, followed by Sports Day at The Meres Leisure Centre
Wednesday 19 July	Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition leaves school at 10am (returns 23 July) Final Assembly at St Wulfram's

TERM ENDS—2:45PM

GCSE GRADE CHANGES 2017

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

1. I have heard GCSEs are changing, what does this mean?

GCSEs will be graded on a new scale of 9 to 1, with 9 the highest grade, rather than A* to G as now, to distinguish clearly between the reformed and unreformed qualifications.

The government and Department for Education (DfE) have specified that the new GCSE syllabuses will include more challenging and knowledge-based content with exams only at the end of the course. There is less non-exam assessment too. English Language, English Literature and Maths will be the first to be graded from 9 to 1 in 2017. Another 20 subjects will have 9 to 1 grading in 2018, with most others following in 2019. During this transition, students will receive a mixture of letter and number grades.

2. If the exams are harder, what will happen to the grades this summer?

Although the exams will have to cover a wider, more challenging range of content, the independent exam regulator Ofqual has made it clear that students sitting these examinations for the first time will not be disadvantaged. Whilst students may come out of the exams feeling that they have done less well. Ofqual has said that broadly, the same proportion of students who currently achieve a C and above will achieve a grade 4 and above in the new GCSEs (see Q4). The exam boards will base standards on results of 16 year-olds who took previous GCSE qualifications, so that it does not disadvantage this year's Year 11 students.

3. Why has this new grading system been introduced?

The introduction of the 9-1 system increases the number of higher grades than the previous A*-A system. By using 9-1, there are now six different grades from 4 to 9 rather than four in the old system (A*, A, B, C), which means individual students can be more accurately recognised in terms of their outcomes. The revised scale will also enable employers and others to easily identify which students have taken the new, more challenging GCSEs.

4. How does the new grading system match the old one?

The new grade scale will not be directly equivalent to the existing one. However, to be fair to the students and to give meaning to the new grades, Ofqual has decided that there will be some comparable points between the old grades, and the approach used to awarding will ensure that in the first year of a new qualification:

- Broadly the same proportion of pupils will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above.
- Broadly the same proportion of pupils will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.
- Broadly the same proportion of pupils will achieve a grade 1 and above as currently achieve a grade G and above.

It is important to realise that the new GCSEs have more grades. While it is true to say that the same proportion of candidates will get a 4 and above as currently get a C and above, it is not true to say a grade 4 is directly equivalent to a grade C. This is because of the expanded number of grades above a 4. So, a grade 4 represents the bottom two thirds of a grade C, while a grade 5 is the equivalent of the top third of grade C and the bottom third of grade B.

5. As the top grade is grade 9, will there be similar numbers of 9s awarded to A*s currently?

There is more differentiation in the reformed qualifications, as there are three top grades (7, 8 and 9), compared to two in the unreformed qualifications (A and A*), so you would expect that fewer students will get a grade 9 than previously got an A*.

6. I want my child to aim for the equivalent of a grade C across all subjects but I am confused as to whether they should be aiming for a 4 or a 5.

Because the same proportion of candidates will get a 4 and above as currently get a C and above, aiming for 4 and above is equivalent to aiming for C and above. This is, and will remain the level that pupils must achieve in order not to be required to continue studying English and Maths post-16. The government has defined a grade 4 as a 'standard' pass. Where employers, FE providers and universities currently accept a grade C, the government expects them to continue recognising a grade 4.

7. I have heard there will be a 'standard' pass and a 'strong pass', what does this mean?

The government will publish schools' results not just at the 'standard pass' (grade 4 and above), but also at the 'strong pass' (at grade 5 and above) in school performance tables only. The number of pupils achieving a 'strong pass' will be one of the measures by which schools are judged.

8. My child is sitting the new Maths GCSE this summer—what are the main differences between the old and the reformed Maths GCSEs?

The main differences are the structure of the assessment (more examination papers for students to sit), the content of the syllabus and the examination questioning styles. One of the aims of the reformed Maths qualification is to encourage students' development of problem-solving skills, and this is reflected in the way that the questions are worded and structured in the assessment.

9. How will employers be informed and educated on the differences between the new and old grades and qualification?

The DfE is working with the independent regulator Ofqual, exam boards and partner organisations such as the Confederation of Business Industry (CBI), using a variety of products and channels including social media, to ensure that all stakeholders can get access to the information they need. This includes ensuring that employers understand that the new GCSEs are more demanding, and that a new grade 4 represents a similar level of achievement to a current low to medium grade C—the threshold for a level 2 qualification.

10. Will employers and colleges be asking for a 4 or a 5 as part of their entry criteria?

Employers, colleges and universities will continue to decide the level of GCSE grades needed to meet their individual employment or study requirements. The DfE is encouraging employers, colleges and universities to have realistic expectations of pupils in the first cohorts to sit the new, tougher GCSEs when setting their entry requirements for work or further study.

11. Will A levels be changing their grades too?

No. A levels will retain their A*-E grades.