



A Levels have changed

A-levels are assessed by final examinations (and coursework in certain subjects) at the end of the two-year course.

Students will study three subjects in the first year and continue with all three in the second year. Students can also study four subjects if this benefits your academic progression, but universities usually only require three subjects at A-level.

Students can also study for an Extended Project Qualification in addition to the subject specific A-levels.

In addition to A-levels we offer equivalents known as BTECs. The extended diplomas are offered in Health and Social care, Sports Studies, Computing and Applied Science. These courses are mainly coursework based with an externally examined element. These courses are graded from Pass to Distinction* and carry the equivalent UCAS tariff points to three A-Levels.

Target Setting and Progress monitoring

Our value added/progress monitoring system provides an effective means of measuring student and staff performance. Students' GCSE results on entry are measured against their subsequent progress every term and what this suggests about the likely consequences of their future achievement at A level. Praise, encouragement and help are given as needed in order to try and ensure that all students achieve their full potential.

How does this work?

Each GCSE grade is scored according to the scale below:

9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
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For example, if a student achieved three number 7s, 3 number 6s, and 3 number 5s, their on entry points score would be:

3 -7 numbers = 21 (3x7)

3- 6 numbers = 18 (3x6)

3- 5 numbers = 15 (3 x 5)

Which gives a total of 55

The total is then divided by the number of the GCSE numbers to find the average score: $55/9=6.1$

Using national benchmarks, this on entry score is converted to a minimum target grade for each subject. In this instance, an on entry points score is converted to a minimum target grade for each subject. In this instance, an on entry points score of 6.1 would lead to a minimum of 112 tariff points at A level. The minimum target grades are used throughout the career of students at the sixth form to assess progress.

Students are monitored throughout the year and are assessed in mid –September to swiftly identify any issues arising early in the year.