

NC/CC

10 July 2015

To Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Guide to Reforms to GCSE (2015/2019)**

There are new courses at GCSE which are to be introduced between September 2015 and September 2017. There will also be changes to the way in which the examinations are graded.

The introduction of these new courses is being staggered in three stages from September 2015 to September 2017 (transition phase). During the transition phase, students will possibly be taking a mixture of new and old courses and, in the case of GCSE between 2017 and 2019, they will be receiving results, some of which are graded in letters (old courses) and some in numbers (new courses). All courses will be assessed at the end of year 11 during the last term. There will no longer be early entry or any re-sits of GCSE examinations.

#### ***What the changes mean to and your child***

- **Year 11 from September 2015 (examined in 2016)**

All GCSEs will be awarded on a scale of A\*-G

- **Year 10 from September 2015 (examined in 2017)**

New GCSEs in English and Mathematics will be awarded on a 9 to 1 scale (9 is the highest grade).

All other GCSE subjects will be A\* to G

- **Year 9 from September 2015 (examined in 2018)**

New GCSEs in following subjects:

History, Science, Geography, Languages, Art and Design, Citizenship, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Music, Physical Education, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Religious Studies

will all be graded on a 9-1 scale

continued/.....

- **Year 8 and year 7 from September (examined in 2019 onwards)**

New GCSEs – other subjects which Ofqual decide will be developed as reformed GCSEs.

We will keep you informed about these changes and new changes throughout next year but if you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to make contact with either myself or Mr Henderson (Assistant Principal)

Yours faithfully

**N CAIRNS**  
Vice Principal