



FUTURES
Community College



The Mastery Pathway

Assessment at Key Stage 3 and 4

A guide for parents/carers

What has changed?

Until this year schools used National Curriculum Levels to track progress of students at Key Stage 3. All schools are now responsible for developing their own systems for tracking student progress and will no longer use National Curriculum Levels.

What will happen now?

At Futures Community College we are now tracking student progress using 'Steps'. We are using a system based on the idea of the 'mastery' of key skills. Your child will be assessed and placed on a Step; this will tell you and their teachers where they are in their studies.

Each Step contains a fixed amount of content and skills which will be covered by the subject teacher during lessons.

Students will be assessed regularly so that their teachers know they have mastered the key skills being taught. Students will then move up a Step [grade] when they can show that they have mastered a range of skills in a particular subject. If a student does not manage to master all the key skills being assessed, they will be offered additional help and support to make sure they do not fall behind.

Assessment and grading

During the course of the year the students will be assessed both formally and informally. These assessments will take different forms depending on the subject; some may be practical assessments, for example in PE or DT.

How will I know if my child is doing well or not?

You will receive 5 interim [summary] Reports and one full Report during the course of the year. You and your child will be able to see the progress they are making. Each Report will show which 'Step' your child is currently on in any given subject and will be broken down in the following way [using Step 5 as an example]:

If they are **secure** at Step 5: **[5+]**

If they are **moving towards a secure** Step 5 **[5]**

If they are **not secure** at Step 5 **[5-]**

The Step your child has achieved will be colour coded to highlight the progress they are making:

Purple means they are making above expected progress

Green means they are making expected progress

Blue means that they are below their expected progress

Where a student has been colour coded blue their teacher will be working with them to ensure that they get back on track as quickly as possible.

An example of a Report can be found on the next page.

Futures Community College

Year 7 AP1

KS 2 English	4c
KS2 Maths	4b

Current Attendance (%) 100

Name of student

Photo of student and form group

Making more than expected progress
Making expected progress
Making less than expected progress

	End of Year Target	Current	BFL	Literacy
English	2+	2-	5	3
Maths	3-	1	5	5
Science	3-	2	4	2
Art	3-	2	5	3
Citizenship	3-	3	4	3
Computer Science	3-	2	4	2
Drama	3-	2-	4	3
DT	3-	2	5	4
French	3-	1+	4	2
Geography	3-	2-	5	3
History	3-	2-	4	3
Music	3-	2	5	3
PE Core	3-	1+	5	3



STEPS TO SUCCESS



New Vs Old		
Grade	GCSE	BTEC
9	A**	
8	A*	Distinction*
7	A	Distinction
6	B	Merit
5	C+	
4	C	Pass
3	D	
2	E	
1	F/G	

GCSE

New Grading system

Please see the chart on the previous page, which shows the new 9-point number grading system alongside the current A*-G grading system. Whilst we are in a period of transition, please be aware that for KS4 students Reports will contain the following grades:

- A*-G grades for all subjects in Year 11
- A*-G grades for all subjects in Year 10, apart from English and Mathematics. The new GCSE grades [1-9] will be awarded for these subjects in 2017.

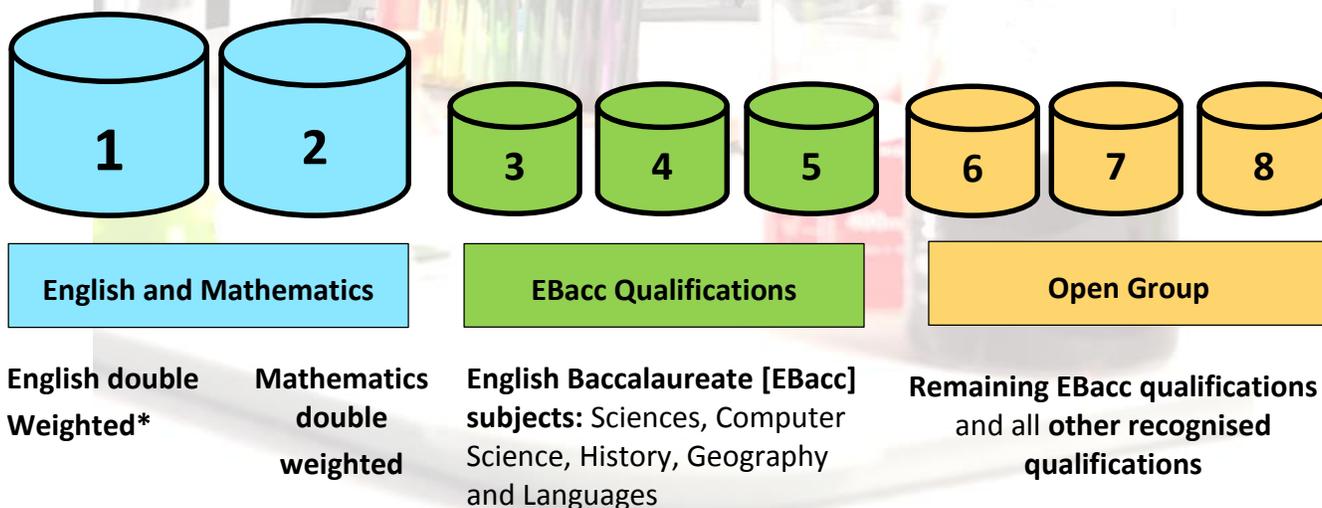
The new Progress 8 Measure

At the moment students are measured on how many GCSEs they achieve at grades A*-C, including English and Mathematics. From 2016 all students will be measured on how much **progress** they make from when they start secondary school in Year 7 to when they complete their exams at the end of Year 11. This measure will be known as '**Progress 8**'.

In 2016 Progress 8 will be introduced for all students. The aim of the Progress 8 measure is to encourage students to study a broad and balanced curriculum. The new measure will be based on the progress that students make across a range of 8 subjects.

For each student the 8 subjects must be made up of the combination detailed below:

**Higher score of English Language or English Literature is double-weighted if a student has taken both qualifications*



If you have any questions about these changes please do not hesitate to email Mr O'Flaherty on info@futures.uk.com