

1st October 2015

Dear Parents/Carers of students in Year 10,

As many of you are aware, there have been some substantial changes to both the English and Mathematics GCSE. Many of you attended our Information Exchange Meeting on the 9th September where we shared and discussed the changes and how they will impact your children. If you were unable to attend, then the PowerPoint presentation is still available on our website:

<http://wgswitney.org.uk/perch/resources/new-gcse-2015.pdf>

One of the major changes is the new GCSE grading system, where letters are being replaced with numbers. A consequence of this change is that it has been a more complicated process to assign Challenge Grades in both English and Mathematics. Our Challenge Grades are an aspirational target grade that we feel, with the correct support, encouragement, resilience and hard work, a student could attain at the end of their GCSE course. Initially, these Challenge Grades are generated through a statistical package which predominantly uses KS2 data to set these aspirational targets. These grades are then moderated by Heads of Department and their teaching staff who, using their knowledge of the student, will raise a Challenge Grade if they feel it is not aspirational enough for a particular individual.

This year we would like to increase the involvement of parents and students in this process, hence if you feel any of your son's/daughter's Challenge Grades, in any of their GCSE subjects are not ambitious enough, then please let us know and we will change them. You will be able to find their Challenge Grades on Insight in the menu option 'Exam, Reports & Key Stage Results', you can email me at d.askew@wgswitney.org.uk to request any changes.

Alongside this process, students will be having a discussion with their tutors, so they will also have the opportunity to raise any of their Challenge Grades.

Please do not hesitate to contact me in school if you have any questions on the email address above.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Askew
Assistant Headteacher