

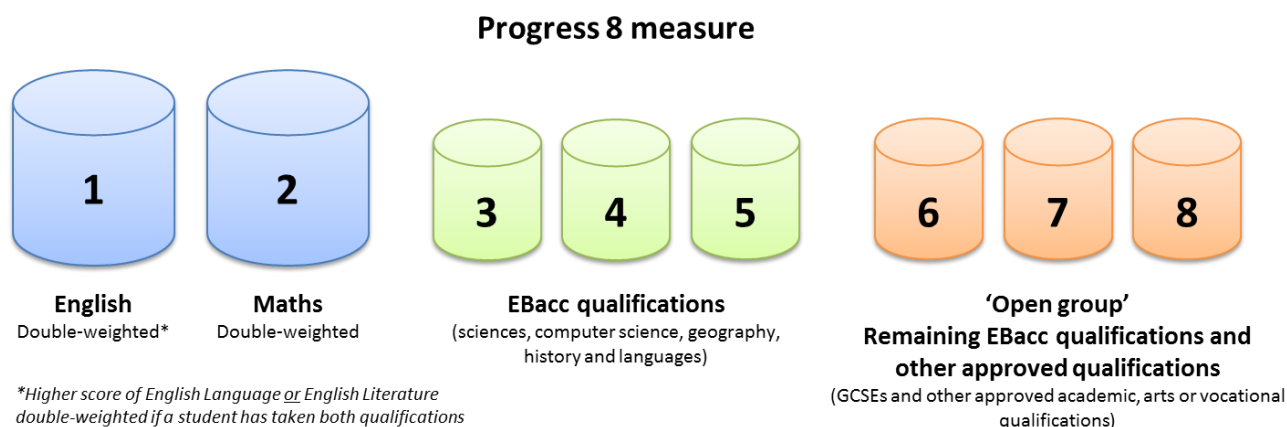
Changes to Education: A Parents' Guide

Currently all students, academies and schools are measured on how many GCSEs they achieve at A*-C, including English and Mathematics. There are huge changes to education stretching over a three-year period. This document outlines some of these changes.

From 2016 all schools and academies will be measured on how much progress they make; from when students start in Year 7, to when they complete their examinations at the end of Year 11. There are three parts to the new measures:

Part 1 - Progress 8 / Attainment 8

The Progress 8 measure is designed to encourage all students to study a broad and balanced curriculum. The new measure will be based on students' progress measured across eight subjects. For each student the eight subjects must be a combination from the diagram below.



The Progress 8 score will always be determined by dividing the points total by 10 (the eight qualifications with English and Mathematics counting double), regardless of how many qualifications your child sits or in which subjects.

Attainment 8 is the student's average achievement in the same subjects as the Progress 8 measure.

Part 2 The percentage of students achieving a grade C or above in English and Mathematics. Schools will be compared in the future to this percentage rather than the current measure based on those achieving five or more GCSEs including English and Mathematics

Part 3 This measure is achieving the EBacc qualification. We have been preparing for this in the last few years by encouraging students to take a balanced range of subjects in their GCSEs. The EBacc measure is achieved if a student achieves a C grade or above in:

- English and Mathematics
- Geography or History
- Science or Computer Science
- A modern foreign language (at CHA this is currently Spanish or French)

As with all educational change we are carefully checking that we are making sure that our curriculum reflects the best opportunities for our students. We have made sure that the qualifications that we offer 'count' for the new measures.

We do offer a GCSE equivalent in some subjects namely the BTEC. In the last year these have become more aligned to being equivalent to GCSEs and we will continue to offer these. Students can take up to three BTECs in 2016.

All students at Chiltern Hills Academy now study both English Language and English Literature. When results are achieved, the higher grade will count twice and the lower grade will form part of Progress 8, if it is one of their best eight grades.

All students at the Academy will continue to study Mathematics. The result of this will be counted twice to calculate the Progress 8 measure.

All students are expected by the Government to achieve a grade C or above in both English and Mathematics. If this is not achieved in Y11 they will have to continue to study for this in the sixth form or wherever they continue their education.

Science subjects

All students at the Academy will study Science up to the age of 16. Double science will count as two subjects for Progress 8. Biology, Physics and Chemistry (triple science) will count as three subjects for Progress 8. The sciences can be counted within the Ebacc measure, the open group or a mixture of both depending on their best 8 grades. Students who are capable of achieving high grades in science will continue to be encouraged to study for the three individual science subjects.

Changes to GCSE grading system

The Government has introduced changes to the current GCSE grading system. No longer will students be awarded grades A*- C, instead numbers 1-9 will represent the new grades with 9 being the highest grade.

From 2017 (the current Year 10) students will receive a mixture of numbers AND letters. They will receive numbers in English Language/English Literature and Mathematics and letters for all other subjects. From 2018 (the current Year 9) students will receive numbers in all subjects other than in GCSE Product Design and Media. These subjects are the last to reform and in 2019 student will receive numbers in these remaining two subjects as well.

We realise that these changes are complicated. You can be assured that we are doing our best to understand the changes and to be responsive to these as we give guidance and advice to young people over their best subject choices. What has not changed is that we do expect all our students to apply themselves in each subject.

If you have a question or would like to discuss anything about this paper or about the changes in the curriculum please do email me on agriffiths@chacademy.co.uk Alternatively you can find more information on the reforms by visiting Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) www.ofqual.gov.uk

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