

9 to 1: a brief guide for parents

We have [published a blog post](#) specifically for parents of students taking their GCSE exams this summer. It covers why the grades are changing, how they compare with the A* to G scale and how the combined science grade will look.

You may wish to share this post with parents of students at your school to help explain what their children's results will look like.

Teacher views on GCSE maths tiering

In the run up to the first exams in the new GCSE maths last year, we knew that one of the issues worrying schools was choices about which tier to enter students for. In early 2017, we asked GCSE maths teachers about their tier entry choices for the first award of the new 9 to 1 graded qualifications. Ahead of this summer's exams, we've repeated this exercise to find out what schools are planning in 2018.

We have also re-visited some of the same schools we spoke to last year, ahead of this year's awards, and spoken to them about their experiences last summer. They told us that the results they received last summer were broadly as expected, and similar to their results in the old qualifications. This reassured them that they had made appropriate tier choices.

For more information, we published [a blog post on this work here](#).

French, German and Spanish

Among the new GCSEs being awarded for the first time this year are French, German and Spanish. These qualifications are different from the previous versions in several ways, including their structure and content.

We have [published a blog post](#) about how they differ and how the 9 to 1 grades will be awarded in these subjects.