



Headteacher:  
Dr I Gilbert

Bradfield School  
Kirk Edge Road  
Worrall  
Sheffield  
S35 0AE

Telephone: 0114 286 3861  
Website: [www.bradfield.sheffield.sch.uk](http://www.bradfield.sheffield.sch.uk)  
Email: [enquiries@bradfield.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@bradfield.sheffield.sch.uk)

October 2018

## GCSE target grades

Dear Year 11 parent/carer

Towards the end of October you will be able to access through 'Go4Schools' your child's first data capture of Year 11. When this is published, you may notice that some or all of their 'target grades' have changed from the final data capture of Year 10. Indeed, you may already have noticed this by logging in to Go4Schools since the start of the new academic year. I am writing now to clarify why the target grades have changed.

### What are target grades?

Target grades are the grades your child can expect to achieve as a minimum based on the historical GCSE performance of other children nationally with the same SATs results in Year 6.

### Why have target grades changed?

Over the last two years, the national picture of GCSEs has changed. The government tasked all exam boards to include more challenging content in their exams and introduce a 9-grade system (9–1 with 9 being the highest) instead of the previous 8-grade system (A\*–G). For the last two years, target grades have been estimated based on the old qualifications. Now that students nationally have taken exams for the new more rigorous qualifications, the proportion of students achieving lower grades in some subjects has increased thereby lowering national benchmarks. We have therefore changed our target grades accordingly.

### Does that mean we have lowered our standards for our students?

No. Target grades are **minimum** expectations for students. It is right and proper that many Bradfield students should want to beat rather than meet their target grades, but we also want students to have target grades that are realistic. Even so, if all the students in current Year 11 achieve their new target grade in all subjects when sitting their final GCSE exams, this would represent a progress measure for the school of +0.6. This would mean that, on average, Bradfield students would achieve over half a grade higher than the other students nationally with the same prior performance in Year 6.

### What is the MLO?

MLO stands for 'Most Likely Outcome'. It is a grade generated by Bradfield teachers and is a prediction of what grade each teacher thinks your child is most likely to get in their subject. This prediction is made taking into account how hard your child is working in class and at home, how well they are responding to feedback and how they have performed in class assessments.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding the information set out above then please do contact the school via the routes listed at the top of page.

Kind regards,

Mr J Osborne, Assistant Headteacher