



19th October 2016

Dear Parent, Carer,

## **KES GCSE Examination Results Summer 2016 and visit of Richard Bassett from the Department for Education**

I am writing to explain a little more about our GCSE examination results from the summer of 2016 and how schools are now being measured by the Department for Education. We now have further information from the DfE on our results, so I am in a position to tell you more. I am also in a position to report back on a visit to KES last Wednesday by Richard Bassett from the Department for Education.

### **New national school accountability measures**

2016 is the first year that schools are being officially measured by the following four criteria:

- **Progress 8** - this is a score that measures our students against similar students nationally across 8 key subjects. A Progress 8 score of 0 would be expected overall progress for our Year 11 students. A score of 1 would mean all students had achieved one grade higher in every subject and a score of 0.5 would mean the student had achieved one grade higher in half the subjects taken. Year cohorts differ from year to year, which is reflected in Progress 8 calculations
- **Attainment 8** – this is the average grade that students achieve across 8 key subjects
- **Percentage of students who achieve A\*-C in English and Maths**
- **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)** – the percentage of students who achieve A\*-C grades in English, Maths, 2 Sciences, a modern or ancient language and either History or Geography.

### **How did KES students perform on these measures?**

Below, I have shown the results for the four criteria and compared them with the results in 2015. Although this is officially the first year of this measurement, we can calculate the scores for 2015 too. You will see that on three of the four measures, we have improved on last year's results, which themselves were significantly better than those of 2014. On the fourth measure, A\*-C in English and Maths, students achieved the same result as last year despite overall being a weaker cohort than that of 2015. Most pleasingly, our Progress 8 score has gone up to 0, meaning that KES students made the progress that they should have done across 8 subjects, achieving a better result on this measure than the previous year.

	2015	2016
Progress 8	-0.29	0
Attainment 8	D+	C-
Students achieving A*-C in English and Maths	50%	50%
Students achieving the EBacc	10%	13%

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Principal: Craig Morrison BA (Hons) FRSA



The DfE also provides information on the process of high, middle and lower attaining students and in each of these categories our students made progress in line with what was expected of them.

I hope you will agree that these are very welcome improvements in results and a good platform from which to make further progress.

### **GCSE grading changes**

As well as changes to school accountability measures, the current Year 11 will be the first year group to receive GCSE results for English and Maths in numbers not letters, from 1-9. We have discussed this with parents at previous evening meetings and we will be saying more about these changes for Years 9, 10 and 11 parents at our Welcome evenings this week.

Please refer to our performance data in the About Us tab on the academy website. You can read more there about other measures where results improved last summer.

### **Visit to KES by Richard Bassett from the Department for Education**

Mr Bassett visited us last Wednesday morning and toured the school, talking to senior leaders, other staff and students. He was very positive in his comments, noting our further GCSE exam improvements in 2016 and complimenting staff and students on our strong ethos and good behaviour. He pointed out some areas for us to develop further, most importantly our work on how students respond to teacher feedback. There is significant research on the huge difference that this makes to student progress when done well. He noted some outstanding practice at our school on this and some that needs improvement to get to that level. That will be a key focus for us in the coming months. It was very helpful to receive Mr Bassett's feedback as good evidence that we are making further progress in our work.

There has been so much to admire about work at KES this half term and I am proud of the efforts of students and staff in the work they have done both in the curriculum and beyond. Thank you to parents and carers for your excellent support too.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Lloyd Brown  
Head of School

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