

Frequently Asked Questions

What are grade reports?

A system of reports to keep parents/carers informed of their child's academic progress at each stage of their education at Edgbarrow.

What do the reports show?

The subjects your child is studying and their achievement in those subjects, as well as any areas requiring improvement. The reports use a number of subheadings which give specific information such as a Baseline, an End of Year Target, a Progress Grade, an Attainment Grade, a Predicted Grade, Positives/Successes and Areas for Development.

What is a Baseline?

This is given in Years 7 to 9 (Key Stage 3) in the first term of the academic year. It is the student's starting point in a particular subject i.e. how competent they are in that subject at the start of the academic year. Teachers use formal or informal measures and classroom observations to ascertain a baseline grade.

What is a Target?

This is the band or grade a teacher thinks the student should be achieving by the end of the academic year. Teachers base targets on all available data such as previous performance levels, tests and exam results, as well as an element of realistic challenge:

- Year 7 Targets – these are based on SATS (KS2) tests taken at the student's primary school. Once your child has settled into Edgbarrow, targets are modified if required, according to performance.
- Years 8 to 11 Targets – these are based on KS2 tests, and the student's performance and exam scores from the previous academic year.
- Years 12 -13 Targets – these are based on the student's average GCSE point score.

What is an Attainment band?

Years 7 to 9 are given attainment bands. This is the current band achieved by the student based on either a departmental assessment or more formalised testing.

Why is the word 'Band' used rather than 'Grade' in Years 7 to 9?

During these years students are building the skills they need to achieve GCSEs. For example, a student given an attainment band 5 in Year 7, is unlikely to be able to achieve a grade 5 at GCSE, if they sat the exam there and then. What it demonstrates is that the student is acquiring a skillset, which if they continue on the same track, could lead to a grade 5 GCSE in Year 11. The band achieved by the student at the end of year 9 should give a good indication of the type of grade the student could achieve at the end of Year 11 in GCSEs.

Years 10 to 13 are given 'grades' because at this stage their attainment can be matched more precisely to their KS4 and KS5 courses.

What is a progress grade?

Years 7 to 9 are given progress grades. These are colour coded and show how a student is progressing in a particular subject.

What are predicted grades?

Years 10 to 13 are given predicted grades. These are the grades a student is most likely to achieve at the end of their course of study, whether this is GCSE, A Level or Vocational, taking into consideration their current performance and any test results or mock exams they have sat.

Why are grades now given as a number?

As you are aware, the Government has introduced reformed GCSEs. The grading system for these new exams is 9 - 1 rather than the well-known A* - G with the highest achievable grade being a 9. Edgbarrow has introduced this system for all year groups from Year 7 through to Year 11 (when GCSE exams are taken).

To make it clear exactly how likely a student is to achieve their predicted grade, Edgbarrow uses a set of symbols (plus, equals, minus). The table below shows how these symbols work:

A grade of 7+	This indicates a student is achieving at the top end of the 7 grade and has the potential, with effort, to move to a grade 8
A grade of 7=	This indicates a student is secure in the grade they have been given and would need to show determined effort to move up to the next grade
A grade of 7-	This indicates a student is just achieving that band and could slip to a lower grade if effort levels drop

What about those GCSE subjects that are still using the old A*- G system?

Edgbarrow no longer offers subjects that use the old A*-G system

Is a grade 9 GCSE equivalent to an A grade using the old grading system?

The table below from Ofqual gives an indication of what the new 9-1 grades mean in relation to the previous letters:

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

For further information about Ofqual GCSE 9 to 1 grades select this [link](#)

What do the colours behind predicted grades mean?

Edgbarrow uses colour coding to make it easier to see how students are performing against their targets. The table below shows what the colours mean:

Green	The grade is equal to or exceeds the student's target
Amber	The grade is close to but not yet reaching the student's target
Pink	The grade falls below the student's target

Will the grading system change for students taking vocational courses?

There are currently no plans for this to happen. The courses will continue to follow the current system as follows:

Vocational Qualification	Equivalent To	Grade Equivalence
BTEC Level 1/2 First Award	1 GCSE	Pass L1 = E/F grade GCSE Pass L2 = C grade GCSE Merit L2 = B grade GCSE Distinction L2 = A grade GCSE Distinction* L2 = A* grade

OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate	1 GCSE	Pass L1 = F/G grade GCSE Merit L1 = E grade GCSE Distinction L1 = D grade GCSE Pass L2 = C grade GCSE Merit L2 = B grade GCSE Distinction L2 = A grade GCSE Distinction* L2 = A* grade
Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma / Introductory Diploma / Extended Certificate	1 A Level	Pass = E grade A Level Merit = C grade A Level Distinction = A grade A Level Distinction* = A* grade A Level
Level 3 Diploma	2 A Levels	Pass = Two E grade A Levels Merit = Two C grade A Levels Distinction = Two A grade A Levels Distinction* = Two A* grade A Levels

Why do Grade Reports show two grades for a BTEC Diploma?

This is because a Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to 2 A Levels, so a double grade is given. Students are given points for each module they study. These points are totalled at the end of the course of study and depending on what score they gain, they will get a double grade, as follows:

Diploma	
720 GLH	
Grade	Points Threshold
U	0
PP	72
MP	88
MM	104
DM	124
DD	144
D*D	162
D*D*	180

What do the double grades, such as MP or DM mean?

The table explains what the letters represent. The highest grade achievable is D*D*

U	Ungraded
PP	Pass, Pass
MP	Merit, Pass
MM	Merit, Merit
DM	Distinction, Merit
DD	Distinction, Distinction
D*D	Distinction Star, Distinction
D*D*	Distinction Star, Distinction Star

As with A Levels, Edgbarrow indicates how likely a student is to achieve their predicted BTEC grades, by using numbers next to grades:

MP1	indicates a student is achieving at the top end of the grade band and has the possibility, with effort, to move to the next grade band
MP2	indicates a student is secure in the grade band they have been given and would need to show determined effort to move up to the next grade band

MP3	indicates a student is just achieving that band and could slip to a lower grade if effort levels drop
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How do Universities measure BTEC qualifications for entry into University?

As with A Levels, universities convert grades into points and offer places based on the total points required for a particular course of study:

BTEC Grade	UCS Tariff
Starred Distinction	56
Distinction	48
Merit	32
Pass	16

Is the grading system changing for A 'Levels'?

No, the recognised scale of A*-E or U for ungraded will continue to be used. With A Levels, Edgbarrow indicates how likely a student is to achieve their predicted grade, by using numbers with the A*-E grades.

A grade of B1	This indicates a student is achieving at the top end of the B grade and has the potential, with effort, to move to a grade A
A grade of B2	This indicates a student is secure in the grade they have been given and would need to show determined effort to move up to the next grade
A grade of B3	This indicates a student is just achieving that band and could slip to a lower grade if effort levels drop

What is ATL (Attitude to Learning)?

This reflects the student's attitude to classwork and homework. It is a good measure of how hard they are trying. Either they are Exceeding Expectations (E), Meeting Expectations (M), Below Expectations (B) or Significantly Below Expectations (S). These are colour coded blue, green, yellow and pink, respectively.

What are Positives and Areas for Development?

For Years 7 to 9, this highlights where a student is displaying positive behaviour or where they need to focus more attention to improve. The table below shows the different codes used on grade reports.

B - Behaviour	C - Coordination/Motor Skills	F - Focus	G - Group Work
H - Homework	I - Working Independently	O - Oral participation	Q - Quality of Work in Lesson
R - Readiness to Learn	T - Task completion	W - Presentation of Work	

What are Successes and Areas for Development?

Years 10 to 13 (Key Stage 4 and 5) use a set of 'terms' to express positive behaviours or areas for improvement. These terms have different meanings depending on the subject. The table below shows the set of terms used for both positive behaviours and areas for improvement. Further details about the definitions of these terms can be found [here](#).

Analytical Ability	Evaluation Skills	Numerical Skills	Quality of Homework
Applying Knowledge	Exam Technique	Oral Participation	Readiness to Learn
Behaving Positively	Extended Writing	Persevering with Tasks	Responding to Feedback
Being Focused	Independent Study	Practical Competence	Seeking Help
Catching up Work	Meeting Deadlines	Punctuality and Attendance	Spelling and Grammar
Subject Comprehension	Use of Terminology	Working in Groups	

How often will I receive a grade report for my child?

Each year group receives a different number of reports to reflect the different stages of learning, as they move toward national examinations. The table below is a general guide and could vary, so please refer to the school calendar for precise details and timings.

Year Group	Number of Reports	School Terms
Year 7	3 reports	Autumn, Spring & Summer
Year 8	2 reports	Spring & Summer
Year 9	2 reports	Spring & Summer
Year 10	3 reports	Autumn, Spring & Summer
Year 11	3 reports	Two in Autumn & one in Spring
Year 12	3 reports	Autumn, Spring and Summer
Year 13	3 reports	One in Autumn & one in Spring