

Assessment and Quality Policy

All groups of students are to be assessed at various points of the academic year using a blend of formative and summative assessment. The type of assessment undertaken will inform teachers and leaders of key progress measures, resulting in performance predictions and actions. Data will be used to inform how learning is planned for individual students and what support and/or interventions are required to ensure students are on track to succeed.

Key Progress Measures

- **Retention rate** = the number of students on roll post October census. All level 3 programmes are two-year aims, therefore, the retention rate is based on the number of students retained over the course of 2 years.
- **Pass rate** = the number of students retained that achieve their qualification.
- **Achievement rate** = Retention rate multiplied by the Pass rate.
- **Value-added** = the number of retained students that meet or exceed their **Minimum Expected Grade (MEG)**. All students have on record, their prior attainment from school. In order to formulate individual MEGs, GCSEs results are calculated to generate an **Average Point Score (APS)**. APS is then used to set Minimum Expected Grades. A point of note, Value-added is purely for students on Level 3 programmes of study.
- **Value-added for non-level 3 programmes** = it is sensible to set a clear expected grade that promotes student motivation for internal progression. Therefore, the MEG for GCSE courses will be set to Grade 4 and the MEG for Level 2 BTECs will be set to Merit, Merit (MM).

Tiers of Assessment

Tier 1 –

For all qualifications, the assessment and completion of homework and classroom-based ‘low-stake’ tasks, is the base level measure. These assessments are to be managed locally using teachers’ professional judgment.

Tier 2 –

For BTEC qualifications with units that are internally assessed, the assessment and completion of units is the base level measure. These assessments will be logged on a central core tracking system that is accessible to all staff.

For GCSE, A-level, T-level qualifications, and BTEC externally assessed units, all students must be subject to a robust ‘high-stake’ assessment called a **Key Assessment (KA)**. Throughout the academic year, students on these courses will sit 6 Key Assessments (6 KAs), which will test their memory recall and application of key topics/concepts that have been delivered as per the local curriculum scheme of work. Key Assessments do not need to be sat on the same day, but must be taken within the same

planned week. This will provide teachers and leaders with clear data markers to measure the overall progress individual students are making on their whole programme of study. Key Assessments will be logged on a central tracking system that is accessible to all staff. Key Assessments must be marked using the relevant awarding body mark scheme, and must be awarded grades that are akin to the qualification:

- GCSE: Grade 9-1
- A-level: Grade A* - E
- T-level Core: A* - E
- BTEC Externally Assessed Units: D* - P

A point of note, students on BTEC programmes will sit 2 or 3 Key Assessments as exams take place at various points of the year.

Other universal grades that can be used:

- U – student failed the Key Assessment
- X – student was absent and did not sit the Key Assessment
- Z – The teacher, using their professional judgement, decided not to undertake the Key Assessment.

Tier 3 –

For all qualifications and all students, teachers will submit 3 **Estimated Grades (EG)**. An estimated grade, is the teacher's (or departments) prediction on what the final overall grade is likely to be. It's a 'mortgage bet'. In deciding an estimated grade, teachers (or departments) should use all in-year low and high-stake assessments to make a professional judgement on what the likely overall outcome may be. Estimated grades should not be based on any one single type of assessment, rather, it is a holistic approach factoring in all evidence of student classwork, homework, mock exams, coursework, external assessments etc.

Estimated Grades must be submitted on a central tracking system that is accessible to all staff, and students must be awarded grades that are akin to their overall qualification:

- BTEC Level 2: D*D* - PP
- BTEC Level 3: D*D*D* - PPP
- A-level: A* - E
- T-level: D* - P
- GCSE: 9-1
- Students likely to fail: U

Estimated grades will be used to produce in-year key progress measures: Retention Rate, Pass Rate, Achievement Rate; Value-added. These measures will be shared by department with the governors via the SBUSixth Quality Board. Estimated grades will be used to inform parents of their child's progress. For finer detail, staff can use tier 2 assessments to drill down specific issues that require support intervention.