

## Fact sheet Summary of qualification changes

### Post-16 / Key Stage 5

#### A and AS Level reform

- Linear, 2-year A Level courses
- Examination(s) at end of course – more extended writing in exams, more Maths in other subjects
- AS separate qualification, not counting towards A Level grade
- No change in standards/grades
- Awarding bodies are designing A Levels with Higher Education in an advisory role
- Phased approach to introducing subjects September 2015-2017 as subjects wait to be approved

#### Vocational qualifications

- Technical levels for students wanting to specialise in a specific industry or occupation
- Applied General qualifications for students wanting to continue in education through applied learning
- Technical Baccalaureate – performance measure - recognises the highest level of technical training achieved by 16-19 year olds. It consists of an approved level 3 technical qualification, an approved level 3 Maths qualification and an extended project qualification

### Pre-16 / Key Stage 4

#### New GCSE qualifications

- Increase in the level of demand and challenge for students
- Linear courses with examinations at the end of the course
- Grading has changed. Grading 9 – 1 (Grade 5 is the new C grade)
- iGCSEs will not be included in 2017 performance tables (*International GCSEs, less anglo-centric, initially written for international schools; taken up by some private schools in UK who perceive them to be more challenging*)
- Current Y10 students are taking new GCSEs in Maths and English; other GCSE subjects will be 'legacy' GCSEs
- Current Y9 students will take new GCSEs; they will not be expected to re-sit English or Maths if they achieve a Grade 4

Note: Current Y11 continue with 'legacy' GCSEs, grading system A\*-G. Progress 8 is the new headline performance measure, replacing 5 A\*-C grades EM

#### EBacc

- EBacc is a performance measure
- Govt target is that 90% of current Y7s achieve EBacc
- Students will need to achieve 'passes' across 5 academic subjects - English, Maths, Languages, Science, Humanities and to achieve the English Baccalaureate
- Changes for 2017-18 when students must achieve a Grade 5 in English and Mathematics for the qualification to be included in the EBacc measure

#### Technical Awards

- Level 1 and 2 qualifications
- Up to 3 Technical Awards will count towards Progress 8 and Attainment 8
- Minimum 25% external assessment 2017; 40% external assessment by 2018
- First results will be reported in 2018 performance tables