

# Minimum GCSE Grades – What you need to know

We avoid using the term 'target' at The Marches as we believe that no child should have a ceiling placed on their progress. Each child is given a grade range for each of their subjects – minimum, good and exceptional. We encourage students to aim beyond minimum to achieve good and exceptional grades. (Where the minimum is a 9 we understand it can't go higher.)



Minimum GCSE grades are designed to ensure all students make AT LEAST expected progress, as far as this can be estimated.



Grades are reviewed at data collection points 3 times a year (December, April, July). Parents and students can request a review using the data report feedback form issued then.



Students consistently working above their minimum may have grades increased by staff.

**Example**  
For this student, the grade most achieved by similar students is a 6



## Scaled Scores and Key Stage 2 SATs



Students come to us with a scaled scores from their Key stage 2 SATs in Reading, Maths and Grammar and Punctuation and Spelling. Scaled scores are between 80 – 120. A score of 100 is the national expected standard. Students joining us from Welsh schools have their SATs levels instead of a scaled score.

Where KS2 data is not available (eg: during the pandemic), we use other data to inform our decisions.



Grades are set in the autumn term, at the start of Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12.

Minimum grades are set using the national standard from the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) using KS2 data (year 6 SATs).



National data and outcomes in the past are used – they have a huge data set. The minimum grade is the most likely outcome for each subject they study.

<https://fft.org.uk>

## Who can you speak to about minimum Grades?

The subject teacher  
The Head of Academic Progress



We use minimum GCSE grades to help track and monitor how well students are learning and progressing for their ability. Where a student is below their minimum expected grade teachers will put intervention in place to close gaps.

Expected grades belong to students – they are in their planner and on their books. Students are asked to shade the grade they are aiming for in that subject.

### C1 Atomic Structure Assessment Feedback HIGHER

Total Score	% Score	Grade	Below/On/Above minimum
25 /44	57%	6a	On (so close to the next grade up)

Based on your performance in the test you need to complete the following improvement tasks:

- Q1. Describe the stages of distillation
- Q2. How many protons, electrons and neutrons does Carbon have?
- Q3. How can salt, sand and water be separated from each other?
- Q4. Draw the electronic configuration of Carbon
- Q5. What is an isotope?
- Q6. What are the main differences between Mendeleev's periodic table and the modern periodic table?

*well done*

### Personal Progress Indicators

Student Name: *J. Bloggs*  
Tutor Group: *82T*  
Subject: *Maths* Class: *8K2*

End of KS4 Grades:

Poor	Minimum	Good	Exceptional
<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>