FAQ: Progress 8 and Attainment 8

What is Progress 8 and Attainment 8?

Progress 8 [P8] is the governments newest way of measuring how well your son/daughter has performed compared to other children of the same ability and based upon their primary school KS2 scores. Attainment 8 [A8] tells us the sum of your son's/daughter's grades over their KS4 journey

The target that your son/daughter is given is set by the DfE and to achieve this target we will challenge pupils to achieve 4 levels of progress [LOP] from their KS2 starting point [greater than the usual expected 3 LOP target]
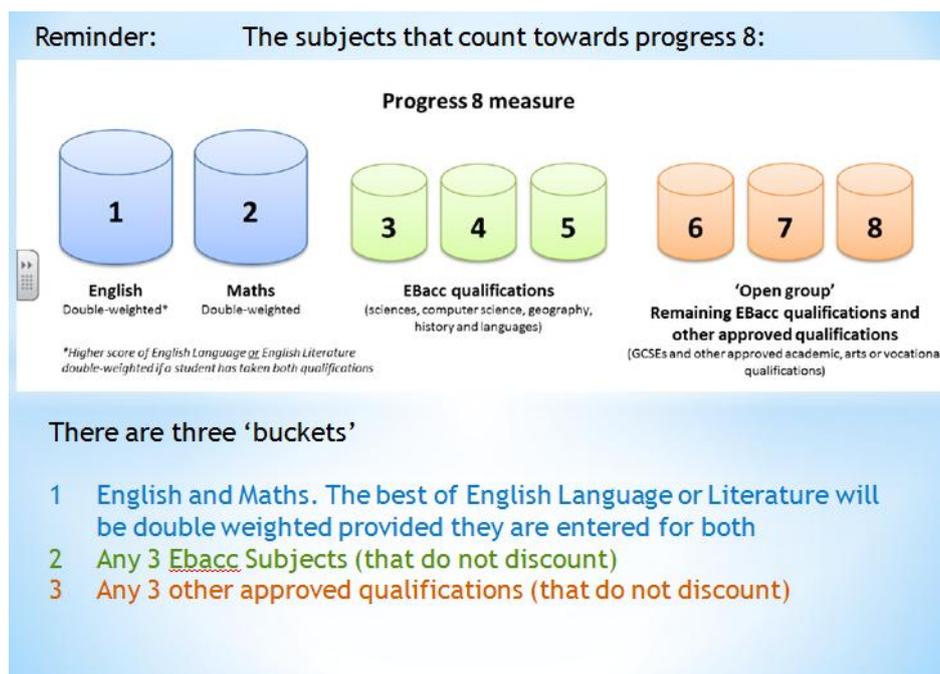
Why do we have to change to P8?

The new measure also requires Walkden High School to offer a broad curriculum so that your son/daughter leaves the school having shown good progress in a range of subject areas, and so best preparing them for their future.

P8 will measure their progress across the best 8 subjects that they are assessed. Every time a pupil achieves beyond their target they will score more points towards their overall P8 score. When calculating the score, Maths and English points will be doubled [see examples below]

What subjects will be included? What is discounting?

As mentioned before, best 8 subjects that are attained will be added to the P8 score. We must be careful to ensure that the courses that your son/daughter choose and are examined in are both suitable and don't discount one another. Discounting occurs when courses have such similar content to one another that it is deemed unfair to count the grade of these courses twice in the performance tables [eg BTEC Principles of Science and GCSE Science can't both be counted for one pupil]

Reminder: The subjects that count towards progress 8:

Progress 8 measure

1 2 — English (Double-weighted*) — Maths (Double-weighted)
3 4 5 — EBacc qualifications (sciences, computer science, geography, history and languages)
6 7 8 — 'Open group' Remaining EBacc qualifications and other approved qualifications (GCSEs and other approved academic, arts or vocational qualifications)

*Higher score of English Language or English Literature double-weighted if a student has taken both qualifications

There are three 'buckets'

1 English and Maths. The best of English Language or Literature will be double weighted provided they are entered for both
2 Any 3 Ebacc Subjects (that do not discount)
3 Any 3 other approved qualifications (that do not discount)

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Is my son/daughters P8 score published?

Although the new published performance tables will include the schools P8 score, a pupils individual score is not needed to be reported to parents as they will still receive their individual grades for their GCSE/vocational courses. However throughout the KS4 course we will inform parents of this figure to allow them to see how their son/daughter is performing generally.

What effect will these new tables have on the school performance?

Grades are converted to points to make a calculation easier. From 2018 onwards most subjects will be awarded a number grade in the new 9 to 1 assessment scale. As the examples below show, pupils with a higher KS2 attainment are expected to progress more rapidly than pupils with lower KS2 attainment.

Example 1

Student A is predicted, based on average KS2 performance, an Attainment 8 score of 69.7 points.
This gives an estimated weighted attainment of 6.97

Subject	Grade	Points	Weighted points
English Language	A		
English Literature	A		
Mathematics	A		
Statistics	B		
RE	A		
Physics	B		
Chemistry	B		
Biology	B		
Opt A - History	B		
Opt B - BCS	A		
Opt C - Drama	A		
Opt D - Spanish	A		

Student A has made 3LOP or 4LOP in **all** subjects

Subject	Grade	Points	Weighted points
English Language	A	7	7 ÷ 5 = 1.4
English Literature	A	7	7 ÷ 10 = 0.7
Mathematics	A	7	7 ÷ 5 = 1.4
Statistics	B		
RE	A	7	7 ÷ 10 = 0.7
Physics	B	6	6 ÷ 10 = 0.6
Chemistry	B	6	6 ÷ 10 = 0.6
Biology	B		
Opt A - History	B		
Opt B - BCS	A	7	7 ÷ 10 = 0.7
Opt C - Drama	A		
Opt D - Spanish	A	7	7 ÷ 10 = 0.7
Total		68	6.8

Student A's weighted attainment is 6.8 compared to prediction of 6.97 so has contributed -0.17 to the school's overall figure.

Example 2

Student B is predicted, based on average KS2 performance, an Attainment 8 score of 19.1 points.
This gives an estimated weighted attainment of 1.91

Subject	Grade	Points	Weighted points
English Language	D		
English Literature (Y10)	E		
Mathematics	E		
Statistics	?		
RE (Y10)	U		
Core Science	D		
Opt A - Art	D		
Opt B - ICT	D		
Opt C - PE	D		
Opt D - missing	?		
Extra - ECDL	Pass		

Subject	Grade	Points	Weighted points
English Language	D	4	4 ÷ 5 = 0.8
English Literature (Y10)	E		
Mathematics	E	3	3 ÷ 5 = 0.6
Statistics	?		
RE (Y10)	U		
Core Science	D	4	4 ÷ 10 = 0.4
Opt A - Art	D		
Opt B - ICT	D	4	4 ÷ 10 = 0.4
Opt C - PE	D	4	4 ÷ 10 = 0.4
Opt D - missing	?		
Extra - ECDL	Pass	5	5 ÷ 10 = 0.5
Total		31	3.1

Student A's weighted attainment is 3.1 compared to prediction of 1.91 so has contributed +1.19 to the school's overall figure.

In these examples, the points scores are added up and divided by 10 not 8. This is because both English and Mathematics carry a double weighting

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What do the new number grades mean?

The change from letters to numbers is undoubtedly going to take a little while to get use to both as parents and teachers. There will be a staggered introduction to changes with different courses being reported as numbers in different years for the first time:

Year	Subjects being reported as numbers for the 1st time	Subjects still on lettered grades
2017	Maths and English	All other subjects
2018	Humanities, Arts, Science, DT, MFL, PE	Business, Film, Media etc
2019	Business, Film, Media	none

The table shows how KS4 targets will change when the new number grade system comes into effect. NB: this will be altered over the next few years as we receive more information on targeting and expectation from the DfE.

KS2 level		old target	New Target
6	a	A*1	9
6	b	A*2	9
6	c	A*3	8
5	a	A1	8
5	b	A2	7
5	c	A3	6
4	a	B1	6
4	b	B2	6
4	c	B3	5
3	a	C1	5
3	b	C2	4
3	c	C3	4
2	a	D1	3
2	b	D2	3
2	c	D3	2
		E1	2
		E2	2
		E3	2
		F1	1
		F2	1
		F3	1