



Guidance on Tiers of entry:

There are tiers of entry for students in Maths, Science, French and German. If your son or daughter is studying these subjects then the school will determine the best tier of entry based on their results in classwork, homework and assessments. The tiers of entry will be discussed and decided on in the Autumn term of year 11, but reviewed after mock exams in January of year 11.

The two tiers are Tier 1 (Foundation): Covers content from grades 1 to 5 (Where a 4 is a standard pass and 5 a strong pass), Tier 2 (Higher): Covers content from grades 4 to 9 (there is a small window of grade 3's available for those that fail to achieve enough marks for the grade 4, however this is a window of 1 or 2 marks at most).

Decisions on entries will vary slightly for the different subjects however if a student is consistently performing at a grade 5 or above they will be considered for the Higher papers. Those students who are performing on the cusp of a 4/5 will sit the Foundation papers in their mock examinations. If they achieve a grade 5 in the Foundation papers, then the department concerned may choose to try them on a Higher paper to see if they are able to cope with the Higher content. At this point a change in tier may be appropriate.

It should be noted that some pupils aiming for grade 5 may find the foundation tier papers more accessible and perform better at this level. If, based on the above evidence, this is the case, they will be entered for the Foundation tier to enable them to achieve their best possible grade.

Subject specific details:

Maths: A lot of consideration went into the methodology for making decisions on tiers of entry last year and the results from the first set of examinations on the 1 to 9 specification were excellent.

<http://www2.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

Triple Science: The tier of entry can be different for each of the disciplines therefore a student's tier can vary, however it is more likely the entry will be Higher based on their ability at the start of the course.

Combined Science: The tier of entry chosen has to be the same for all 3 disciplines. The range of grades for the double award go from 1-1 to 9-9. A student falling just below a 4-4 on the higher paper may be awarded a 4-3.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

Modern Foreign Languages: Pupils in French or German are entered for either the Higher or Foundation tiers in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) based on the criteria detailed above.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668>

For more details on Tiers of entry please see the specifications for Maths, Science, French or German, links above.