AGSB KS3 Assessment

Assessment is a vital part of our curriculum. It enables students, teachers and parents to have a good understanding of what the student knows and understands and what they need to do next, to make further progress.

Teachers at AGSB assess students continually in lessons using informal methods such as tests and questioning. This helps the teacher to gauge what the class know and understand and this knowledge is used to adjust future teaching for the class.

In addition to this, teachers also assess students formally, and when they do, students will be given a FEDS grade. FEDS are our AGSB in-house assessment grades for Year 7 and 8 students. (In Years 9-11 students are graded using the GCSE style grades of 1-9).

Understanding FEDS Grades

F – Foundation

E – Emerging

D – Developing

S – Secure

S+ - Secure plus

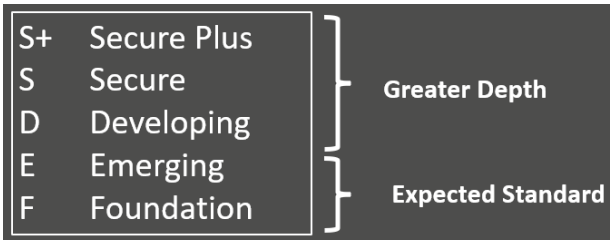
Foundation is the lowest grade and Secure plus is the highest.

The grades are descriptions, to illustrate how securely the student has grasped the knowledge taught in the topics he has studied so far in the academic year.

FEDS grades are specifically developed for AGSB students.

Foundation and Emerging are the equivalent of 'Working at the expected standard' in Primary School and Developing, Secure and Secure + are the equivalent of 'Working at Greater Depth'.

As a frame of reference, we can relate the grades to the assessment framework used in Primary Schools. Foundation and Emerging relate to 'Expected standard' and Developing, Secure and Secure + relate to 'Greater Depth'



How do departments assess students?

Different departments assess students in different ways. Some departments choose to use tests, others expect students to produce essays, extended tasks and some subjects such as PE or music might assess practical skills. When students are assessed in Key Stage three, the assessments will have the following characteristics:

- Assessment criteria will **be shared** with students before they complete the task.
- Students will be **given feedback** that relates to the assessment criteria.
- Students should know what they need to do to **improve** in the subject following the feedback they have received.
- Students will often be expected to take some **action on the feedback** given by the teacher e.g. improve their work/ resubmit their work or complete an extension task.
- At the end of each year, students sit internal exams. For these exams, students will also be awarded a FEDS grade.

What assessment criteria is used to determine the FEDS grades?

Every department has carefully mapped out exactly what they expect students to know and be able to do in their subject, to achieve the different grades in Years 7-11. These subject achievement maps are used to write assessment criteria for all formal assessments in Year 7 and 8.

This means that in each subject, the language that is used for assessment is consistent between classes and that teachers have agreed what students need to know and be able to do, to be awarded the FEDS grades.

Focus on learning not outcomes

- The words in FEDS describe how securely the student has grasped the knowledge in the subject for the topics studied so far. If a student has not securely learned the knowledge, we strongly encourage them to persevere until they have learned the topic securely. This might involve them re-learning knowledge for a re-test or redoing a piece of work they have not achieved their best in.
- We explain to students that it is important that they see each topic as an important building block for understanding the subject and if they don't understand it first time they should persevere until they do.
- If a student does not do well in a subject, it is perfectly possible for him to make improvements in the subject, by taking small steps, to improve his grade next time.

Reporting Progress

At the end of each term parents receive a grade sheet that details the FEDS grade the student has been awarded in each subject. There will also be an opportunity to discuss the subject FEDS grades at the parent and teacher consultation evening which takes place annually.

Specific details about how students are assessed in each subject is available in the 'Academic Subjects' section of the school website. On these pages, parents can also find subject specific information about how they can support students with their learning.
