

# KS5 Updates 2018 - England

Government policies in education over the past few years have both radically changed the landscape with schools, new academies and 'free' schools now co-existing and introduced new accountability measurements. The assessment models at KS2 and KS4 introduce new points systems, in addition to the linearisation of A levels at KS5.

Below is a summary of the main changes to Alps KS5 reports for 2018:

## 1. Benchmarks

- A level and AS level - We are creating new benchmarks for the 2018 reports, using the full national dataset from the DfE.
- BTEC - We re-benchmarked the BTEC report in 2016, and will be keeping these benchmarks for 2010 BTEC qualification suite in the 2018 report. Please see below for information on how we are dealing with 2016 BTECs in 2018-19.

## 2. Minimum Expected Grades (MEGs) for 2017 & 2018 Starters - Impact of new gradings 9 – 1 at GCSE

For A level, AS level and BTEC we introduced a new Alps scoring system for reformed subjects for 2017 starters. This will also be in place for the September 2018 starters. Schools and colleges should continue to use the 'Modelled Transitional Points' MEGs for their new Y12 students. Note that from September 2019 all students starting post 16 studies will have all GCSEs graded as 9 to 1 so there will not be a need for the Modelled Transitional Points.

## 3. GCSE Score Calculation

For the 'Wave 2' reformed subjects the Alps points will be:

Reformed Grades:	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
2018 Alps Points for Reformed Subjects	8	7.67	7	6.33	5.67	5	4	3	1	0

For the remaining 'Wave 3' subjects the points remain the same:

Unreformed Grades:	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
2018 Alps Points for Unreformed Subjects	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

To calculate the Alps Average GCSE Score, add up the points for each grade and divide by the number of subjects.

Please note: The Modelled MEGs are only applicable to those students starting post 16 studies in September 2017 or 2018. The previous GCSE score methodology and Alps MEGs are applicable to students who sat their GCSEs prior to summer 2017.

## 4. Target setting of new 2016 BTEC suite

If you are offering the new 2016 BTEC Suite, the situation in 2018 will be complicated because the new BTEC Suite of L3 qualifications will be awarded alongside the current suite.

We recommend that you still use the current MEGs for students starting in 2017 & 2018. The 2016 BTEC qualifications have had some uncertainty since their launch and the recent announcement of allowing additional resits has added to the complex picture. While many anticipate that overall results will drop, the amount by which this may occur is unknown. For this reason, we believe it is in the best interests of students to continue with the current MEGs until data is available that will enable schools and college to understand the impact of the reforms.

...continued overleaf



The Student Centred Approach



Connect



KS4 & KS5 Performance Systems



IS 621807

## 5. BTEC Reports 2018

The 'old' 2010 BTEC qualifications will continue to use the existing benchmarks as there is no evidence of a significant shift in the national data.

Please note that the 2016 'new' BTECs with external assessments will not have a benchmark in the 2018 BTEC report initially, as there is no data against which to produce benchmarks for these new courses.

We will be reviewing our client data, and if we have sufficient, robust, data with which to produce subject level benchmarks we will do so and update those schools and colleges affected in the Autumn term 2018. If there is insufficient client data we will use the DfE datasets we receive and be able to update the benchmarks in Spring 2019.

We will produce benchmarks for the 1 year Certificate and Foundation Diploma courses for which there is sufficient data to do so from the 2017 DfE data set that we receive, and these will be available in the 2018 reports.

## 6. UCAS Points

Although UCAS points changed for admissions from September 2017, we will continue to use the 'old UCAS' scale in our 2018 reports as staff are familiar with these and we will look to review the points system when we update the benchmarks based on a complete set of reformed KS4 subjects.

## 7. Alps Connect Interactive

Alps Connect is our new web-based interactive reporting platform, allowing internal analysis using our familiar Alps benchmarks and established methodology via simple yet accessible new tools. We are delighted with the number of schools and colleges who have subscribed to Alps Connect Interactive this year. Using Connect every member of staff can have access to their own teaching set analyses. This will empower your staff to really engage with and understand their own data, understanding which students are on target, and who needs strategic intervention. Connect Interactive allows you to analyse as many in-year monitoring data points as you wish, so you can tailor it to your school or college needs.

Connect Interactive will also allow you and all staff to:

- Analyse your data by gender, ethnicity, teaching set, tutor groups and other custom fields
- Carry out in-depth departmental analysis – including interactive 'what if' functionality – to model how many grades would have been needed to move into the Black or into the Red
- Identify the areas of both celebration and concern or intervention; by
  - > Student
  - > Subject
  - > Teaching Set
  - > Gender, ethnicity, SEND or other custom field
- Create bespoke reports e.g. for governors

See our website to book onto free webinars on using Connect effectively.

## 8. Connect Data – Launching Spring 2018 for KS5

Connect Data is our new service to integrate uploading data into Connect Interactive or to produce the traditional Alps Reports and will replace the existing Alps Data Collection Software (ADCS) by Summer 2018. This new online service will simplify the process for submitting data and will enable our analysis to be directly available to you. Student data can be uploaded at the beginning of the year and you can then just add the grades at each monitoring point. If you have pre-loaded the student data, on results day, only the subject and grades will need to be added to be able to see your Alps analysis directly.

## 9. Connect Features – update

We are working hard developing a number of exciting new features in Connect which will be released over the coming months, including:

- Printing and exporting across specific areas of Connect
- Fine grades – for those schools / colleges using a fine grades system, allowing the input of fine grades
- Monitoring accuracy – a powerful and smart tool designed to monitor prediction accuracy
- Custom student groups – allows you to define custom groups, for example, SEND

Please see our website for up to date information on Connect feature updates: [www.alps-va.co.uk/Connect](http://www.alps-va.co.uk/Connect)

## Contact us

If you have any questions or would like further information, we are at the end of the telephone Monday to Friday 9am-5pm – 01484 887600 or you can email us at [info@alps-va.co.uk](mailto:info@alps-va.co.uk). Please visit our website for more information at [www.alps-va.co.uk](http://www.alps-va.co.uk)