

Dear Colleague,

How do GCSE and A level reforms in science subjects affect International GCSEs?

With teaching of new AS and A level specifications starting this September and the introduction of reformed GCSEs in 2016 for first assessment in 2018, much is changing across science qualifications.

One of the reforms to GCSE-level qualifications you may have heard about impacts Level 1/Level 2 Certificates. Earlier this year, the Department for Education announced that it won't be possible for Awarding Bodies to redevelop the current Level 1/Level 2 Certificates for recognition in performance tables from 2018 onwards. Following this announcement, Edexcel Certificates (the International GCSE equivalent taken by maintained sector schools in the UK) will no longer be offered to schools after the June 2017 examination series. You can read more about this announcement at www.edexcel.com/SciEdCert17.

I'd like to reassure you that the International GCSEs in science offered by your school are **not** affected by this decision. The qualifications will continue to be offered to independent schools in the UK as they have been since their inception. Currently, International GCSEs do not feature in official government performance measures, and this will continue to be the case.

Will there be any changes in store for the International GCSEs in science?

One of the changes associated with new GCSE (9–1) qualifications in science from September 2016 is the introduction of a new grading system, based on numbers (9–1) instead of letters (A*–G). To read about this in more detail, visit www.edexcel.com/GCSESciChanges16.

At the moment, Edexcel is exploring the possibility of adapting our International GCSE courses to reflect the changes to GCSEs from 2016, both in terms of grading and content. However, we're also aware that many of you value the International GCSE in its current form and do not want to see much (if any) change. We'd love to hear your thoughts about the International GCSEs in science to help us to shape the courses in the future. If you have any ideas or questions, please email me at ScienceTeamUpdates@pearson.com.

We hope you're pleased with the continuation of the International GCSEs in science, and we'll let you know of any further developments as they happen.

Yours faithfully,



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Pearson