

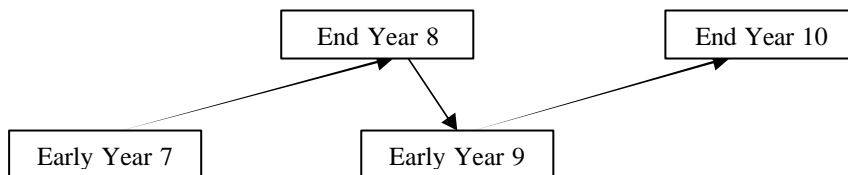
Commonly Asked Questions Regarding Grades On Junior Reports

- Why are few A's given out ?

An A means 'excellent' and is only awarded to students who reach the outcomes at the highest level. To earn an A a student must not only demonstrate a thorough understanding of ideas covered, but also the capacity to apply these ideas in new situations.

- Why is it that students in years 7 and 9 generally earn E's, D's and C's?

The standards against which students are measured are those applicable at the end of Years 8 and 10. It will therefore be generally quite difficult for a student in Year 7, say, to earn an A or B as this represents excellent or high achievement as measured at the end of Year 8. The general pattern will be that students' grades gradually rise from the beginning of Year 7 to the end of Year 8, then drop again at the beginning of Year 9 and rise until the end of Year 10.



- Has a student failed if she is awarded a D?

No. The meaning attached to a D is 'satisfactory'. All grades must be interpreted in the light of the definitions printed on the second page of the reports. These definitions may differ quite markedly from those used in previous generations of students. The descriptions of the grades are those issued by the NSW Board of Studies.

- How can a student improve her grade for the next report?

The key factor in improving grades is to improve the quality of understanding and the work being produced. In order to see what the next level of achievement involves students should ask the teacher to see the course performance descriptors. These should clarify what it is that a student needs to improve on in order to earn the next highest grade. Generally this will involve a commitment on the part of the student to developing deeper thinking abilities, improving her capacity to express her ideas with greater clarity and sophistication and applying her understanding in a wider variety of contexts

- How can parents speak to teachers regarding their daughter's progress?

Calrossy has two sessions of parent / teacher interviews each year – one near the Easter holidays and one near the June holidays. Parents may book an interview with teachers at one of these times. If it is necessary to discuss matters at another time throughout the year, parents may contact the school reception requesting an interview with a teacher and stating times they are available. The teacher will telephone back at a time they are not on class.

- How does a teacher arrive at the grade to be awarded?

In each subject a set of course performance descriptors are used, in conjunction with professional judgement, to determine the grade which most accurately describes the student's overall performance as exhibited in the course assessment program and their demonstrated level of understanding. In the case of Years 9 and 10 these performance descriptors are those supplied by the NSW Board of Studies to be applied in determining grades for the School Certificate. For Years 7 and 8 the faculties at Calrossy have developed the course performance descriptors to be used.

- What rank did my daughter earn?

At the bottom of each subject report a table shows the distribution of grades awarded within that course. This gives parents and students an idea of where they stand in relation to other students in the course.

- Can I compare grades on Calrossy reports with those from other schools?

The course performance descriptors used in determining School Certificate grades (end of Year 10) are the same in any NSW schools. In Years 7 to 9 the definitions for grades may differ markedly between schools. For this reason a grade reported from another school cannot be legitimately compared to a grade awarded at Calrossy as the same grade may signify quite different levels of achievement.

If you have further questions, please contact the Deputies' Office at Calrossy.