



**KING JAMES'S SCHOOL
KNARESBOROUGH**

EDUCATIONAL JARGON

**A Quick
Reference Guide**

Updated January 2009

AST

Advanced Skills Teacher.

An AST is a teacher who has passed a national assessment & has been appointed to an AST post. Their duties include supporting the professional development of other teachers and raising standards of teaching and learning. ASTs spend 20% of their working time with teachers from other schools.

A-level points

Exam grades expressed as numbers to establish whether or not the requirements for a university place have been met. An A scores 120 points, B 100, C 80, D 60 & E 40. A new points system is being introduced.

A Levels

Advanced Level.

Reforms for 16-18 year olds were designed to introduce a more flexible system where qualifications could be mixed & matched. Now an A-Level (or A2) consists of 6 units allowing continuous assessment & a coursework element. An AS Level equals half an A Level & they also come in a vocational form.

A Levels Vocational

These were introduced as part of the Curriculum 2000 reforms & were designed to give 16-18 year olds more flexibility in the qualifications open to them. Vocational A Levels, AS Levels & GNVQs are designed to prepare students in jobs such as business, construction, engineering, health & social care. They can be taken as part of a package with other qualification & come in three levels: foundation, intermediate & advanced.

Assessment for Learning (AFL)

Black & William in 1998 gave this definition:

Assessment for learning can be defined as "all those activities undertaken by teachers and/or by their students, which provide information to be used as feedback to modify the teaching & learning activities in which they are engaged".

Day to day assessments would include effective questioning; observations of children during teaching & while they are working; holding discussions with children; analysing work & reporting to children; conducting tests & giving quick feedback.

Awarding Body

This is the new name for what used to be called Examination Boards. The Qualifications & Curriculum Authority recognises & regulates awarding bodies & their qualifications.

AWPU

Age-Weighted Pupil Unit.

The sum of money allocated to the school for each pupil according to age. This is the basic unit of funding for the school.

BECTA

British Educational Communications & Technology.
Government's lead agency on the use of ICT in education.

BVP

Best Value Policy.

Reviews how LEAs and schools uphold and improve their services.

CVA

Contextual Value Added.

A measure of pupil progress that takes into account factors such as prior attainment, ethnicity, gender, SEN.

CPD

Continuing Professional Development.

Includes any activity that increases staff knowledge or understanding, & their effectiveness in schools.

CRB

Criminal Records Bureau.

Set up in 2002 under the Police Act 1997 to check teachers and others working with children. All staff working in school in England and Wales must obtain a CRB certificate.

DCFS

Department for Children, Schools & Families.
The government department that runs education.

DiDA

DiDA is examination board Edexcel's new diploma in digital applications. It has four modules: using ICT; multimedia; graphics; & ICT in enterprise. If a student completes only the using ICT module, they get an award in digital applications (AiDA) which is equivalent to a GCSE. Two modules, one of which must be using ICT, earn a certificate in digital applications (CiDA) which is equivalent to two GCSEs. If all four modules are completed, a diploma in digital applications, which is equivalent to four GCSEs, is awarded.

Differentiation

The DCFS term used to describe the way in which teaching methods & the curriculum are adapted to meet the individual learning needs of learners.

Diplomas

These are new qualifications which will be available in 17 industry based subjects. Diplomas are applied qualifications and there is a strong element of employer engagement in their delivery. Diplomas are available for KS4 and post 16 students.

ECM

Every Child Matters.

Government-led initiative to co-ordinate public services in order to deliver 5 outcomes for young people: being healthy; staying safe; enjoying & achieving; making a positive contribution; economic well-being.

Education & Skills Act

Became law in November 2008. All young people are required to stay in education or training.

EWO/ESW

Educational Welfare Officer/Educational Social Worker.

Person employed by an LEA to help parents & LEAs meet their statutory obligations in relation to school attendance.

Exclusion, Permanent

Being expelled, usually for bad behaviour.

Exclusion, Fixed Term

Suspension for up to 45 days per year.

Fischer Family Trust (FFT)

Educational charity. It is perhaps best known for providing analyses & data which help LEAs & schools use pupil performance data more effectively.

GCSE

General Certificate of Education.

Academic examination of basic secondary education generally taken by 16 year olds.

GNVQ

General National Vocational Qualification.

Vocational qualification related to particular industries to be taken in a school or college. Can be taken at levels equivalent to GCSE & A Level.

Gifted & Talented (G&T)

According to the DCFS, the gifted are those with high ability in one or more academic subjects and the talented are those with a high ability in sport, music, visual arts and/or performing arts.

Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)

An employment based training programme where schools can benefit from grant payments of up to £13,000 to cover the salary costs of their trainees. Schools can take on additional unqualified teachers & train them on the job. Entry to GTP is competitive.

GTC

General Teaching Council.
Professional body set up to represent teachers.

HoD/HoF

Head of Department/Head of Faculty.

Home School Agreement

Contract given to pupils & parents, outlining the aims & values of a school.

HoY

Head of Year

ICT

Information and Communication Technology

IEP

Individual Education Plan.
Identifies the special educational needs of a child & outlines targets & strategies to support their learning. Usually completed by teacher in consultation with SEN co-ordinator.

INSET

In-service education and training, usually now called CPD.

ISR

Individual School Range of pay scales. The range is set by the governing body.

ITT (or ITE)

Initial Teacher Training (or Initial Teacher Education).
Most people need to take an ITT course in order to gain qualified teacher status (QTS).

JCQ

Joint Council for Qualifications

LAC

Looked After Children.
Children who are in care or looked after by foster parents.

LA

Local Authority

LSC

Learning and Skills Council.
Responsible for funding & planning post-16 education & training.

MAL

Maximum Admission Limit.

MIS

Management Information System
The school's admin system. At KJS the chosen MIS is CMIS (aka Facility, eportal).

MPS

Main Professional Scale
6 point scale for teachers. Teachers on point 6 can apply for Threshold to move to the Upper Pay Spine (UPS).

NOR

Number on Roll.
Number of pupils registered at named school.

NPQH

National Professional Qualification for Headship.
For details on what's involved, check out the downloadable guide from the DfES.

NQT

Newly Qualified Teacher

OfSTED

Office for Standards in Education
Inspectorate for children & learners in England.
www.ofsted.gov.uk

Personalised Learning

Tailoring education to individual needs. Nine 'gateways' to personalised learning are often listed (as defined by David Hargreaves) - student voice; assessment for learning; learning to learn; new technologies; curriculum; advice & guidance; mentoring & coaching; workforce development; organisation & design of the school.

PLASC

Pupil Level Annual School Census (the old Form 7).
Information about pupil numbers, gender, ethnicity that is returned to the DfES early in January each academic year. DfES then use it along with OFSTED & others to compile things like Performance & Assessment reports.

PLTS

Personal Learning & Thinking Skills.

PM

Performance Management

POS

Programme of Study

PSHE/PSHCE

Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education

PTR

Pupil Teacher Ratio

Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)

Unit established & maintained by an LEA to provide education for pupils who would not otherwise receive suitable education because of exclusion or other reasons.

QCA

Qualifications & Curriculum Authority.
Leads developments in the curriculum & in assessments.

QTS

Qualified Teacher Status.
A newly-qualified teacher has QTS.

QtT

Qualifying to Teach.
Standards & Requirements that set out the Secretary of State's Standards which must be met by trainee teachers before they can be awarded QTS and the Requirements for training providers & those who make recommendations for the award of QTS.

R&R

Recruitment and Retention.
An extra point offered as an incentive to teach in schools where recruitment has proved difficult - often in inner cities.

RA

Risk Assessment

RAISE

Reporting & Analysis from Improvement through School self-Evaluation.
Ofsted & the DfES are working together to streamline the provision of data analysis to schools by merging PANDA with PAT (Pupil Achievement Tracker). The new product will be known as RAISEonline & will replace PANDA from summer 2006.

Roll

The number of pupils at the school.

SA

School Action.
School based support.

SA+

School Action+.
School based support & pupil & parent services.

SAS

Student Associate Scheme.
TDA funded scheme – school placement experiences.

SATs

Standard Assessment Tasks.
National tests where children are tested in Maths, English & Science at the end of key stage 2 & are awarded a level which indicates their ability, compared to the national average.

SIP

School Improvement Partner.
SIPs provide support to secondary schools in their drive to raise standards & improve the education of all pupils & are an element of the New Relationship with Schools agenda.

Schools with Serious Weaknesses

Not as bad as failing schools but they have been found by inspectors to have problems which need help. The action plan will have to set targets to remove all causes of weakness within a year & there will be re-inspections during that time to confirm recovery. Ofsted will also monitor action plans & local authority statements to ensure they are adequate.

SEF

Self-Evaluation Form

SEN

Special Educational Needs.
Provision to support pupils with learning disabilities - may be provided through mainstream or more specialised education. The Code of Practice involves a staged approach for assessing & working with SEN pupils.

SIP

School Improvement Plan
A projection of what a school hopes to achieve within a prescribed time limit.

Special Measures

According to the Schools Inspections Act of 1996 a school requiring special measures is one that's "failing or likely to fail to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education".

Specialist School

Specialist schools receive government grants and business sponsorship to improve their facilities and resources in a specific area.

SSAT

Specialist Schools and Academies Trust.
Funded by the DfES, delivers the government's Specialist Schools programme. Provides a network for schools.

Statement

Pupils who are issued with a statement, have a serious SEN requirement and will receive additional support with their learning eg a number of hours with a teaching assistant.

STPCD

School Teachers' Pay & Conditions Document

TA

Teaching Assistant.
Sometimes called Learning Support Assistants or Pupil Support Assistants. Support teachers with particular classes or pupils.

TDA

Training and Development Agency.
Governs teacher training for schools, and provides careers guidance for prospective teachers. The TDA (formerly TTA) is also responsible for professional development for all school staff, including support staff and management.

Threshold

Performance Threshold - an extra pay rise offered to experienced teachers - individual applications are judged against a set of national performance standards set down by DCFS.

TLA

Teacher Learning Academy.
Offers public & professional recognition for teachers' learning, development & improvement work.

TLR

Teaching and Learning Responsibilities.
These replace Management Allowances.

TTRB

Teacher Training Resource Bank.
Provides access to the research & evidence base underpinning teacher education, & a range of other relevant materials.

UCAS

Universities and Colleges' Admissions Service.
UCAS is the organisation that handles university applications.

VA

Value Added.
A measure of pupil progress based on their prior attainment. CVA is now more significant.

Wider Workforce

Everyone in school teaching and non-teaching staff

Year 1 - 13

Year	Age
Reception	4-5
1	5-6
2	6-7
3	7-8
4	8-9
5	9-10
6	10-11
7	11-12
8	12-13
9	13-14
10	14-15
11	15-16
12	16-17
13	17-18