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To Whom it may concern,

I have been teaching for 9 years as a mathematics teacher and have also filled the role of Acting HOD Mathematics. I am also an active member of the Mathematics A Pane.

l The process of allocating an SAI to a student was a lengthy and unnecessarily complicated process with the current criteria/letter based system in place.

- Is it better to assess by a Letter grade or by numbers/percentage method?

  ANSWER: In my view it is far better to use Number/percentage.

  o Numbers allocated to each question givers better feedback to teachers and students.

  o Using marks/percentages is also easier and a more valid way of grading students

    ▪ Highest student in the class/year level.

    ▪ E.g. 97% for Semester 1 as opposed to A+ (What is an A+)

    ▪ 4 students may get A+ (Who is the top student?)

    ▪ 4 students may get 92%, 93%, 94%, 97% (Who is the top student here?)

Transparency of grades to Parents and Students (current system of grading)

- In my belief the current method of grading students of similar ability is floored.

- How do you justify the decision to place students of similar ability on different rung placements based on a letter allocation rather than % gained?

Time spent on Assessment:

- Extra time is being spent on re-writing assessment tasks to justify the decision to allocate a letter grade to each question – ambiguity around what is a C, B, or A standard question has and is an ongoing problem, with differing opinions on what is an A standard question.

- Marks can be easily allocated to easy question (2 marks) multi step questions would be awarded more marks. So easy through to hard questions are allocated varying marks depending upon complexity of the question.

In summing up I would like to see a return to the system of allocating marks to questions and thus giving an overall percentage feedback to Parents, Students and Staff as to the ranking of the student.

Yours Sincerely

Torren Brennan.