**Aim: To use a symbol instead of a grade for test results**

**Method**
- Students asked to predict the grade they would achieve in the test.
- Grade identified to teacher – confidential.
- If expected result achieved – a green mark awarded, if not achieved – a red mark awarded.
- If consistently achieving higher than they had identified, students were encouraged to aim for a higher grade.

**Student Opinion**

- Liked marking scheme: 63%
- Dislike marking scheme: 37%
- Liked red and green symbol: 58%
- Disliked red and green symbol: 42%
- Liked this form of marking to be implemented: 38%
- Disliked this form of marking to be implemented: 42%
- Not too bothered: 20%

**Students comments**
- “I liked this cos nobody knew what percentage you got – you only knew yourself what grade you expected!”
- “I think that another indicator could be used to show whether you obtained your expected result or not – such as a smiley or a sad face!!!”
- “I don’t like the red symbol as it looks like a fail even though we knew that was not what it represented!”
- “You should put a +1 or a -1 beside the grade so that we would know if we went up or down from our expected result.!!”

**Conclusions**
- In general students liked this form of marking but wanted to get the actual results back a lot quicker.
- I gave actual percentage to students after 3 tests and perhaps to avoid frustration with this type of marking the actual results could be given back after 2 sets of tests.
- Overall I think that a combination of methods of marking tests would be beneficial.
- The OL students definitely preferred this method of marking.