

March 2020

Dear Parents,

YEAR 10 PROGRESS REPORT: SPRING TERM

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. At the point of closure we were due to issue the Spring Report for Year 10. Although your child may not be attending school we wanted to pass on the reports. This report will provide an update regarding progress to date and may offer some guidance for subject areas that may need some focus.

You will see on the report a target grade, a working at grade, a predicted grade and an effort grade for your child in each subject.

We encourage you to discuss this report with your child to help them prioritise the key areas for improvement. Please note that the **predicted grade** represents what teachers believe a student might achieve if they maintain their current levels of effort and progress until the end of the course. The **working at grade** is the level that the student is achieving and is based on their most recent assessments alongside an overview of the student's classwork and homework. The descriptors for the new **effort** grades are listed overleaf.

Following the recent reforms all GCSE subjects are now graded using the 9 - 1 system, which has replaced the previous A* - G system. BTEC subjects are still graded using the 'Distinction*', 'Distinction', 'Merit', and 'Pass' grades. All students, at all levels, are always encouraged to better their targets wherever they can. Many schools nationally no longer use target grades and cite them as limiting aspiration. Our experience is that they can be motivational (if used carefully) and encourage students to aim high.

We send you all our very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hudson
Vice Principal

Effort Grade Criteria

Grade 1	Outstanding commitment given to their learning. Always tries hard and perseveres when the challenge and work difficulty increases. Homework is always completed and goes well beyond the minimum that is expected. Shows a genuine interest in the subject and independently researches work and asks questions. Always well organised and prepared to learn.
Grade 2	Shows a good attitude to their learning. Homework is always completed and meets the standards expected for them. They are well organised and give high levels of effort to their learning and generally approach challenging tasks positively.
Grade 3	Their attitude to learning is inconsistent. They do not always give their best effort to learning tasks. Homework, whilst usually completed, is often not at the standard that would be expected for them or is often late. They are not always well organised.
Grade 4	Does not display a good attitude to their learning. Homework is rarely completed on time and is often not at the expected standard for them. Shows little interest in the subject and does not seek to learn independently or ask questions. Organisation is often poor.

GCSE Guidance – Numerical (new) grade system vs. letter (old) grade system

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5 STRONG PASS	
4 STANDARD PASS	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
	U

Notes:

1. The old and new GCSE grading scales do not directly compare but there are three points where they align, as the diagram shows:
 - The bottom of grade 7 is aligned with the bottom of grade A (20% of students will achieve a 7 or higher nationally);
 - The bottom of grade 4 is aligned with the bottom of grade C; and
 - The bottom of grade 1 is aligned with the bottom of grade G
2. A grade 9 is recognised as being more difficult to achieve than an A*. Only 2-4% of students will achieve a '9' in each subject.
3. The Department for Education recognises grade 4 and above as a 'standard pass'; this is the minimum level that students need to reach in English and Maths, otherwise they will need to continue to study these subjects as part of their post-16 education. There is no re-take requirement for other subjects.
4. As with current GCSEs, if a student doesn't do well enough to meet the minimum GCSE standard, they will be awarded a U.
5. Students who are awarded a grade 1 or a U grade in English or Maths will complete a 'Step Up to English Maths' qualification.