

March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Reports

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 9. 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. This report is providing two pieces of information for each subject they have studied:

- 1) An effort grade.
- 2) An attainment band.

Effort Grade

This grade will provide you with an indication of how hard your child is working and how well they have settled into their academic routines. This is an aspect we will reward throughout the year and recognise at prize-giving events. The table below explains the four levels that can be issued. The benchmark for Grade 1 is deliberately high and is set to help recognise when students have gone the 'extra mile' in a subject they love. Students working at Grade 2 are clearly working very hard. Effort levels 3 and 4 are tracked in school and intervention will take place if we feel that consistent lack of effort is leading to standards that are below expectations.

Grade 1	Outstanding commitment given to 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 learning. Homework is always completed and meets the standards expected. Well organised and gives high levels of effort to learning and generally approaches challenging tasks positively.
Grade 3	Attitude to learning is inconsistent. Does not always give their best effort to learning tasks. Homework, whilst usually completed, is often not at the standard that would be expected or is often late. Not always well organised.
Grade 4	Does not display a good attitude to learning. Homework is rarely completed on time and is often not at the expected standard. Shows little interest in the subject and does not seek to learn independently or ask questions. Organisation is often poor.

Attainment Band

These indicate the level that your child is currently working at. All subjects have been developing their curriculum and assessment of knowledge and understanding in Key Stage 3 and we are seeking to raise the bar in terms of the standards that are expected. This is crucial in order to secure a good platform from which GCSE courses can begin in Key Stage 4.

The attainment band awarded is **not** attempting to predict the level that a student will achieve at GCSE. There is far too much that can happen along the way for that to be valid. A student's level of effort and enjoyment can change and the progress that students make can take place at different rates across five years. We often see more progress made in Years 10 and 11 from those students who are younger in their year group.

Our attainment band is simply describing the standard that a student is **currently achieving** in each subject based on what they know, understand and can do now. In setting these bands we have given some consideration to what a student currently achieving a certain band, **might** go onto achieve at GCSE **if** they continued to make progress at their current rate.

Attainment Bands at KS3	Indicates possible final GCSE grades in the range of:
Exceptional	9 8
Advanced	7 6
Secure	5 4
Developing	3 2 1

Please use the following link for some more information about the new GCSE 9-1 number system and how it can be compared to the old grades of A*-G :

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/800507/GCSE_fact_sheet_for_parents_final_.pdf

In summary: Grade 4 is the new 'standard pass' that is equivalent to the old Grade C pass and is often required in English and Maths for entry onto further education courses or apprenticeships. Grade 5 has been identified by the Government as a 'strong pass' at GCSE level. Grade 6 is the typical entry grade required to follow an A 'level course at Budmouth and so marks the start of what we call 'Advanced' level. Grade 7 is equivalent to the old A grade. Grade 8 is the same standard as the old A* grade and the new Grade 9 has been set at a level even higher than that! This is why we have called this standard 'Exceptional'.

Target Grades

We are deliberately not setting the students target grades in Key Stage 3. Whilst it is possible to look at their performance in Year 6 SATS assessments and set them a target in line with that, we do not think this is necessarily useful. We want all of our students to work as hard as they can and reach the standards that they set for themselves. There is some evidence to suggest that setting target levels can place a cap or a 'glass ceiling' on what students think they can achieve. It is also the case that averaging the levels achieved in Maths and English can make a very poor predictor of a student's potential in Art, PE, Technology and other practical subjects.

However, our teachers do have access to information about their student's prior attainment from primary school. If we think that their current attainment levels are not as high as they might be then rest assured, we will intervene and parents will be kept informed. Likewise, if students are reaching levels beyond what might have been expected then we will monitor this carefully and this will be an important aspect of our new rewards system. When students start GCSE courses we will use the information from Key Stage 3 to help set appropriate targets.

Attendance- School Target 98%

Given the current situation with partial closures of schools, please be mindful that the attendance figures will not reflect a true picture.

Lateness and Achievement Points

On the report, you will also see totals for lateness and the number of achievement points given to your child this year. Most Year 9 students will have a very pleasing total of achievement points, which will have been celebrated by the tutor and the Year Team. Our rewards and sanctions system has been updated very successfully this year, and we hope that you can see evidence of your own child's achievements across the subjects at Budmouth.

We send you all our very best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Peter Hudson
Vice Principal