

November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Year 13/14 Progress Report**

I hope you and your family safe and well. The purpose of this letter is to share with you your son/daughter's report and also share with you some information about this term.

Again, I have been impressed by the maturity of Sixth Form students during this strange period in schools. Although we have been somewhat restricted within the Sixth Form bubble, having all Sixth Form lessons in one area has led to a real 'higher education' feel around the Sixth Form block. Students have also been taking advantage of the increased independence they have in Year 13 and 14. Certainly, Chromebooks and the continued use of Google classrooms, should mean all Sixth Formers are using their time productively, both in school and whilst at home.

You will see on your son/daughter's report, a working at grade, a predicted grade and an effort grade for your son/daughter in each subject.

We encourage you to discuss this report with your son/daughter to help them prioritise the key areas for improvement. Please note that the **predicted grade** represents what teachers believe a student is most likely to 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 **effort** grades are listed at the end of this letter.

### **Further Information**

- **Progress Fortnight and Year 13/14 Parent's Evening.** The first of two Progress Fortnights is just coming to an end in school. During this time students and staff are encouraged to have a dialogue about what the student needs in order to improve. This is a two way process, so, at the end of the fortnight, the student has a survey to fill in. This is designed to, not only tell us what they have learnt, but also, to tell us what we can do better to help the student succeed. Please encourage our son/daughter to fully engage in this process. Staff will use the information generated from progress fortnight to identify at the best way to help. This may take the form of intervention sessions outside school hours, for example some are being offered during the INSET day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Again, please encourage your son/daughter to take advantage of these sessions when they are offered in their particular subject areas.
- **Parent's evening on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November.** This will be an opportunity to discuss, over the phone, your son/daughter's progress with their subject teachers. Please make your appointments by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November using the information in my letter from last week.

- **UCAS and Next Step Applications.** We had a very promising 20 early applications to UCAS sent off before Half Term. Now is the time for the rest of the year group to act on their Next Step applications and get them out of the way so they can concentrate on the academic work. Please remember that reference writing and the checking process for UCAS applications takes time. It can take over a week from the time the application is sent for approval so please encourage your son daughter to get their applications in. **Please note, important Mock Exams are scheduled to begin on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January; the UCAS deadline is the 14<sup>th</sup> January.**
- **Student Union Contributions.** On behalf of the student's own Union Executive, can I make another plea to any students who did not pay their student union contribution of £15 last year to pay it promptly this September (there is no charge for Year 13s who paid in Year 12 because the total contribution over two years has been reduced to £15 by this year's Union Executive). The money is used by the Student Union to organise events, in particular the Leavers' Dinner. Year 13s can be reassured that their contribution will be recouped in a reduced price of their Leavers' Dinner ticket at the end of the year, and I am increasingly hopeful that this will be able to go ahead in the summer, given the recent news about potential vaccine! This year payments will be made via the Sims Pay app.
- **Covid-19.** Having said that 'I am increasingly hopeful' about the future, we must all remain both cautious and vigilant in the present. Students must now wear masks when they are in close proximity in communal spaces in school and need to be aware that as soon as they are outside school they are subject to full lockdown restrictions at least until 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Even outside, they should only be with members of one other household. We ask that Sixth Formers continue to set the rest of the school an example in this respect.

Finally, if you get a chance, do take a look at the new [Sixth Form Video](#) on our website. A big thank you to all the students who helped in its making! Stay Safe.

Yours sincerely



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## End of Year Report - Effort Grade Criteria

Grade 1	Outstanding commitment given to their learning. Always tries hard and perseveres when the challenge and work difficulty increases. Work set through Google Classroom or paper based work is always completed and goes well beyond the minimum that is expected. An extremely high level of engagement has been demonstrated in remote learning. 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. Work set through Google Classroom or paper based work is always completed and meets the standards expected for them. A good level of engagement has been demonstrated in remote learning. 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. Work set through Google Classroom or paper based work, whilst usually completed, is often not at the standard that would be expected for them or is often late. An inconsistent level of engagement has been demonstrated in remote learning and support may be needed. They are not always well organised.
Grade 4	Does not display a good attitude to their learning. Work set through Google Classroom or paper based work is rarely completed on time and is often not at the expected standard for them. A low level of engagement has been demonstrated in remote learning and support may be needed. Shows little interest in the subject and does not seek to learn independently or ask questions. Organisation is often poor.