

22 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 13/14 Progress Report

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

It has been great to get back to something approaching normality in school. I have been impressed by the maturity of Sixth Form students during this strange period. I believe there is a real 'higher education' feel around the Sixth Form centre. Students have also been taking advantage of the increased independence they have in Year 13 and 14 and 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 alongside a target generated from their performance at GCSE..

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

Mock Exams. This year we have two periods of Year 13/14 Mock exams. The first runs from Monday 8th November to Friday 19th November. The second is in the Spring Term and runs from 28th February to 11th March. Students should prepare for these as if they were their final exams. If they do so they will not only get a clear picture of where they are academically, but they will also have broken the back of much of the revision they will need to do before the summer.

Progress Fortnight and Year 13/14 Parent's Evening. The first of two Sixth Form Progress Fortnights will get underway on the 30th November. 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 the best way to help. This may take the form of intervention sessions outside school hours, 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 9th December. This will be an opportunity to discuss online your son/daughter's progress with their subject teachers. You will be able to make appointments using "Schoolcloud" from the start of December.

UCAS and Next Step Applications. We had a promising eight early applications to UCAS sent off for Oxbridge and Medicine courses 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 their 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.

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 £10 last year to pay it promptly this (there is no charge for Year 13s who paid in Year 12). The money is used by the Student Union to organise events, in particular the Leavers' Ball. Year 13s can be reassured that their contribution will be recouped in a reduced price of their Leavers' Ball ticket at the end of the year, and I am increasingly hopeful that this will be able to go ahead this summer. Hopefully, all monies for previous Proms have now been reclaimed. We will do all we can to make sure that our Leavers' Ball will go some way to compensate for the missed Proms during the Covid period. This years' student union contribution can be made via the Sims Pay app.

Standards. Covid and lockdown has been difficult, so it is more important than ever that all students attend when they are expected to. We have allowed Yr 13/14 students to nominate 3 days per fortnight when they do not have to be in for tutor. If they are to keep this privilege they must maintain a 95% attendance record at all other times. Some students are beginning to let this slip. Can I also make a plea that students follow the dress code outlined in their [Student Handbook](#), again, we have had a bit of slippage on standards of dress as we approach the end of term.

Finally, if you have not seen it already, do take a look at the [Sixth Form Video](#) on our website. Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Thursday 11th November this year. I am always very proud of the numbers of students who get involved in promoting our Sixth Form. Please encourage your son/daughter to get involved if they can on Thursday 11th.

Yours sincerely



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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.