

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter should accompany the update on our website of the curriculum booklet relevant to your son/daughter this year. For Year 11, the booklet issued last year is still relevant and can be found on the website. These can all be found on the Curriculum section under 'About' Within the booklet you will find details of all the subjects your son/daughter is studying this year along with some key dates. The purpose of this letter is to give you more detail of the assessment information you will be receiving throughout the year. We are also experiencing a somewhat confusing time with regards to the movement from A\*-G grades to the new scale of 1-9 and I will attempt to outline the stages of this process and how each year group will move towards these new grades.

**1 – Attainment Reports.** These will be in a similar format to last year and will provide details of your child's target, current and projected grades.

Target grade – the grade we expect your child to achieve at the end of Year 7, 8, 9 or 11

Current grade – the grade they achieved in their most recent assessment

Projected grade – the grade the teacher believes they will achieve at the end of Year 7, 8, 9 or 11 taking into account all the work they have produced and their attitude to learning.

Year 7 – 18 <sup>th</sup> January and 17 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 8 – 16 <sup>th</sup> November and 15 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 9 – 16 <sup>th</sup> November and 17 <sup>th</sup> May
Year 10 – 16 <sup>th</sup> November and 15 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 11 – 16 <sup>th</sup> November, 18 <sup>th</sup> January (Mock Results) and 15 <sup>th</sup> March

There will be other points during the year when we will also collect internal assessment data in order to ensure we have our intervention focused correctly and are celebrating student achievements.

**Grades and Levels** – As we move through the next three years you will see a change to the way we judge students grades.

Current Year 11 students will receive a grade of 1-9 for English and Mathematics as they are the first students to study the new specifications in these subjects. The remainder of their subjects will continue to be graded from A\*-G. We will also use fine grading such as C+ or 5+ to denote how secure a student is within the grade given.

Current Year 10 students will receive the majority of their subjects graded from 1-9 with only DT, Italian and Business still graded A\*-G if they choose to take these subjects at GCSE.

Current Year 7, 8 and 9 students will have all of their subjects graded on the new scale of 1-9. The table below provides a guide to show how the new 1-9 grades translate to the A\*-G scale.

Current NC Level in from Key Stage 2 and 3	Current GCSE Grade	New GCSE Grade
10/Exceptional performance	A*	9 8
9	A	7
8	B	6
7	C	5 4
6	D	3
5	E	2
4	F	
3	G	1
2	U	U

The new benchmark for students at GCSE is a Grade 5. This is the equivalent of the bottom third of grades at a current Grade B and the top third of a current Grade C. Members of SLT will be available during Academic Mentoring Day on November 3rd if you need any clarification of these new grades and how your child will be affected.

Enterprise Skills continue to play a vital role in the schools' ethos and we will continue to develop these with students through the PRESENTS scheme and The Edge Scheme.

**2 – Diagnostic Assessment Sheets.** We have listened to feedback from parents saying that you would like more detail on what your son/daughter can and cannot do and what they need to achieve in order to move to the next level in their learning. In each subject these new Diagnostic Assessment Sheets will provide you with a clear overview of the skills and knowledge your child is working to acquire and how they are progressing in each aspect. You will be able to see a breakdown of the topics covered in each unit of work, how well your son/daughter has achieved in these and where the gaps in their knowledge might be. This diagnostic focus ensures that intervention can be more targeted and focussed.

These sheets will not be published at any particular time but will be sent home throughout the year as and when a unit of work is completed in a subject. There is an opportunity for you to sign the sheet and write a comment should you wish to.

### **Period 6**

Period 6 proved very effective last year in encouraging more and more students to complete their homework on time and to the required standard.

We will continue to run Period 6 this year but students will only be required to stay after school once they receive 5 or more homework logs. Parents will then receive a letter home explaining the Period 6 process.

Students are still able to attend Period 6 voluntarily if they wish to.

I hope that this letter and the Curriculum Booklet provide you with useful information to help you understand some of the curriculum and assessment aspects of your son/daughters education this year and I look forward to sharing a happy and successful year with them.

Yours sincerely,



Clare Marsh  
(Vice Principal)