

27th March 2015

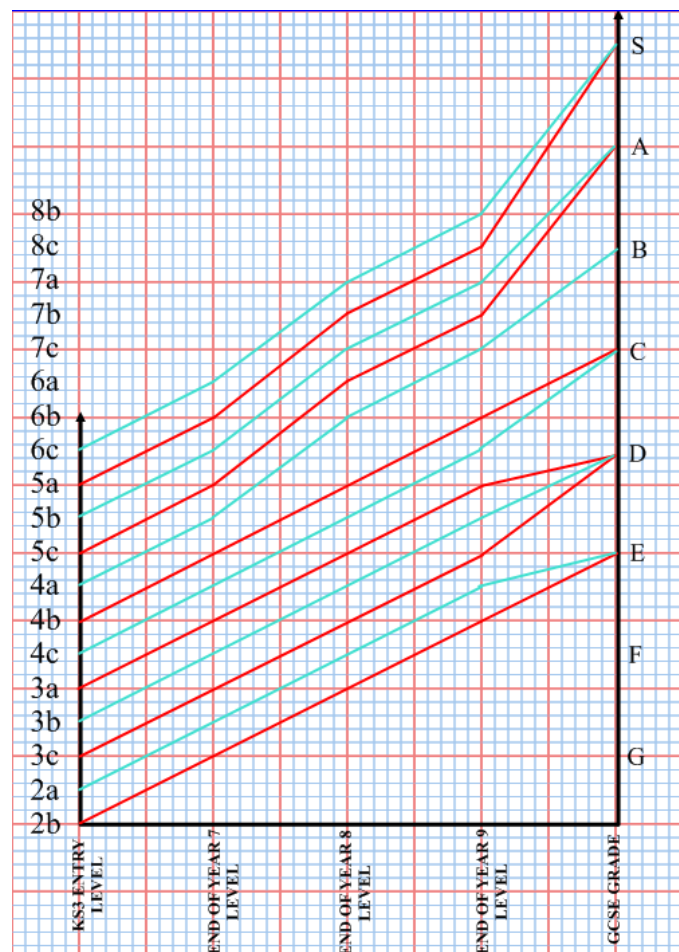
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Dear Parent,

There has been a change in how we are reporting on your child's progress and how we set targets to help them aspire to achieve their potential.

When the students enter High School they come with end of Key Stage Two information on their attainment in English and Maths. This is used as a baseline for setting progress targets throughout Key Stage Three and Four. We use a formula which takes information from national standards to help us set challenging targets which are achievable with the right attitude and focus towards learning.

The journey from their baseline score to achieve the progress expected gives us a trajectory of achievement which we call a 'glide path'. This 'glide path' will have end of year targets for the students to aspire to. An example of the glide paths is shown below. To read it you identify your child's starting baseline level from KS2 and then follow the glide path to the expected GCSE grade.



For Modern Foreign Languages the targets at Year 7, 8 and 9 won't match the graph above as the KS3 Entry level will be far lower than indicated by the English and Maths KS2 results. Students who have had very limited Language experience at Primary School will start at a much lower level, but will be expected to progress rapidly in relation to other more commonly taught subjects.

When you look at your child's attainment on ePortal from now on, the assessment given by their teachers will indicate what they expect your child to achieve by the end of the academic year. (Note that our academic year runs from Sept to June for Year 7, then June to June for all other year groups). This will allow you to simply see if your child is likely to fall below, meet or exceed their targets at any point in the year. We will still continue to report on the likelihood to meet targets in July, October, December, February and May.

This method of target setting and attainment reporting is designed to provide clarity for the student, teachers and parents about how your child is progressing on their glide path. This also supports our new Attitudes to Learning Programme introduced in 2014 which has seen a rapid change in students' attitudes to learning followed by regular rewards for students who have made good progress. Attainment towards targets is one of the key criteria being assessed for students to attain Expert Learner status.

You may notice that the attainment is now given the prefix MLG instead of CP, this is to indicate our change in reporting from 'Current Performance' to 'Most Likely Grade'. To generate an MLG, teachers will evaluate all of the students work in class, assessments and homework to date. During Key Stage Three they will then make a prediction of the likely attainment for the end of the year. Please note, when students have started their GCSE courses; MLGs in those subjects will reflect likely attainment at the end of that course, which is normally at the end of Year 11. As such the target reported during the GCSE years will be the target for the end of that GCSE.

Individual examination results maybe below the flight path because they are snapshots for particular skills and are often based on actual terminal examination criteria.

In the next academic year we intend to go live with our new data management system to students and parents. 'Go 4 Schools' is a system used widely across the country and will hopefully provide parents with a more accessible and comprehensive understanding of your child's progress. This system will replace the requirement for parents to interact with ePortal, but to make the transition effective and to ensure consistently good communication we must set you up with a user account in readiness for the change in June. To do this we need to have details of a current email address. Please respond even if you think the school has an address on file.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. Leaver
Assistant Headteacher

Please return via Reception for the attention of Mr Leaver

Student's Name.....

Your email address.....