

Our ref GRV/JBY

April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

This half term we have again seen students' focus and enthusiasm for their learning continue to grow. Year 7 students are now fully integrated into school life and Year 10 and 11 students are making good progress towards achieving their GCSE target grades. Year 11 are currently sitting mock exams. Every student's progress, effort and attainment is very important to us! Your child's Learning Manager analyses each student's progress across the school every Praising Stars and presents this information to the Senior Leadership Team. Using our 4Is cycle; information, identification, intervention, impact; we develop appropriate strategies to support all students in meeting their targets.

Every day in school is an important 'learning day' and we do not slow down in the run up to each half term, for example we do not play videos in lessons. As part of our intervention timetable we have had intensive controlled assessment days to complete sections of GCSE coursework portfolios and continued excellent attendance at after school maths, science and English is important. Attendance this term continues to be a priority. Year 10 and 11 students are currently preparing for their examinations in the summer.

We look forward to celebrating successes with all students in Praising Stars 4 assemblies and, once again, for those making the most effort and those making significant improvement in effort there are invitations for hot chocolate and cakes with the Principal, Mrs Gaunt.

Terminology Used In Praising Stars Reports

☀ <u>Effort</u>	E1/E2	Outstanding/good effort – star student
	E3	Positive effort – doing most of what we expect
	E4	Cause for concern – may have received a C4 behaviour detention
	E5	Serious cause for concern – target student for intensive intervention
	E6	Student may be in danger of permanent exclusion
☀ <u>Target</u>	This is a GCSE grade. It uses a calculation, based on previous performance, to indicate what students should attain at the end of Key Stage 4 if they sit this GCSE examination. It is based on how students of a similar ability perform nationally.	
☀ <u>Grade</u>	Again, this is a GCSE grade, which the teacher predicts a student will attain at the end of Key Stage 4 if they take the GCSE examination. It is based on their current performance and the teacher's professional judgement.	
☀ <u>Homework / Coursework</u>	This indicates, where marked, that the teacher has a coursework concern (C) or a homework concern (H) or both (HC).	
☀ <u>Attendance</u>	This indicates, where marked, that the teacher has a concern that a student's attendance to their lesson is having a seriously adverse effect on the student's performance	
☀ <u>Parent Evening Request</u>	If a subject teacher would like an appointment with you on parents evening this will be indicated. (Next Parents' Evening to be confirmed).	

Praising Stars Reporting and the New Examination Grades – a reminder

GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. English literature, English language and maths will be the first subjects to be graded in this way from August 2017. The subjects with the highest numbers of candidates (e.g. arts, humanities, languages) will follow in 2018 and most others in 2019. This is happening as GCSEs are being reformed to make them more challenging, to keep pace with employers' and universities demands.

In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, students who would have got a grade C or better will get a grade 4 or better. Students who would have got a Grade A or better will get a 7 or better in the first year. Grade 9 will be more difficult to achieve than a grade A*. The extra top grade will also make it easier for employers and universities to distinguish between the most able students.

To see how the numbered grades compare to the current A* to G system, Google "ofqual 9 to 1 postcard". More information about when subjects will switch to the new grades is available on the Ofqual website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>)

How does this affect my child in Year 11?

The only changes to your child's grades are in English and Maths which they will sit in 2017. These will be based on the number grades 1-9, all other subjects will be based on the traditional Grades A*-G. Praising Stars (c) reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2017.

How does this affect my child in Year 10?

The changes to your child's grades will affect English, Maths and Science which they will sit in 2018. These will be based on the numeric grades 1-9 and all other subjects will be based on the traditional Grades A*-G. The options your child is studying will be examined in 2017 and will be based on A*-C Grades: Praising Stars (c) reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2017 and 2018.

How does this affect my child in Year 9?

The changes to your child's grades will affect English, Maths, Science and the Ebac subjects of Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Computer Science, which they will sit in 2019. These will be based on the numeric grades 1-9 and all other subjects will be the traditional Grades A*-G. Praising Stars (c) reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2019.

How does this affect my child in Year 7&8?

All your child's grades will be based on the new reformed GCSEs and will be based on the numbers 1-9.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs V Gray
Vice Principal