

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have broken the academic year into 4 teaching and learning cycles of approximately 9 weeks. Teachers deliver new content for 7 weeks, and week 8 becomes an assessment week (or 2 depending on the cycle) with week 9 being dedicated to supporting pupils in plugging any gaps that have been identified throughout the cycle before pupils move on to the next element of study. This report will detail the progress that has been made during cycle 1.

On the report you will find that your child has a target grade for each subject. The target grades are calculated using a combination of the following methods. If the school has key stage 2 SATs information for your child, we use this metric as one aspect to form the grade. If we do not have SATs data, the school has previously run an assessment called a CAT4 test to help with the process of reaching this target. We use a national benchmarking system called Fischer Family Trust to then create a target based on national attainment patterns before we then discuss with teachers to ensure that targets are ambitious, yet realistic for each pupil across all their subjects. Targets will vary across subjects to ensure that individual strengths can be recognised and championed.

The target grades are devised for the end of key stage 4, so essentially giving each child their GCSE target. The curriculum is then designed to measure the progress children are making against that target at the equivalent age related level. Teachers take into account the subject knowledge and skills needed to develop confidence in the curriculum and therefore calculate what the GCSE grade would look like within each different year group. For example, if your child is in year 7 and has a target of a 4 in English, teachers will be assessing work at a GCSE equivalent level of a 4 for a year 7 pupil. As the child then progresses into year 8, their target would remain the 4 as the complexity of the work increases to match the challenge needed to achieve a grade 4 at year 8 level.

However, it is important to acknowledge that learning is not linear, so to support each child we will constantly be discussing these targets with each pupil and yourselves, so that appropriate adaptations can be made where needed as a child moves through the secondary school phase.

The report will also give you numerical information on attendance, where the school target for each pupil is 97%, how many behaviour instances have been recorded, as well the number of house points gained since the beginning of the academic year.

Many thanks, as always, for your ongoing support.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Arnold', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Phil Arnold

Principal