

11 December 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

Recently we published your child's first Progress Check in Go4Schools. We would now like to explain the grades, how they are produced and how you can help your child to make improvements.

The Progress Check contained four grades per subject;

ME	Minimum Expectation. This is the grade your child should reach at the end of year 11 if he or she was making expected progress from his or her Key Stage 2 starting points. For all subjects this is a grade, except for English and Maths. For English and Maths the students will receive a numerical grade from 9-1. See below for more details.
OE	Minimum Expectation. This is the grade your child should reach at the end of year 11 if he or she was making more than expected progress from his or her Key Stage 2 starting points.
Evidence Grade Equivalent	This is the grade your child has achieved in exams/assessments so far this year, based on GCSE material covered so far. It is the evidence of his or her knowledge and how well he or she can apply that knowledge.
Professional Prediction	This is the grade the teacher has made for the end of year 11 based on the evidence from the exams/assessments and class learning/learning development and learner score (Vivo). To ensure the accuracy of the Professional Prediction the teacher may only predict up to a maximum of 1 grade above the exam/assessment evidence.

FAQ – What do my child's grades mean?

Your child has just completed his or her first exam/assessment of the year (subsequent exams will be in the week beginning of 25th Jan and 20th June). We have called this a Baseline Assessment and would expect the grades to be lower than those you would hope and expect from your child once they have completed the course. This will be the first time your child has been measured under GCSE standards and style.

However we do not want your child to be complacent, using the GCSE standards and style as an excuse. In fact we want him or her to use the results to build resilience and make improvements by closing the gaps in their knowledge and application in assessments. To facilitate this we have completed a Question Level Analysis (QLA) for every student in each of his or her subjects. A sample of a QLA is below:

Name		1) Forces	2) Gravity	3) Momentum	4) Planets
	Max no of marks	2	5	3	2
Jo Bloggs					
Susan Fish					
Bobby Ewing					

The QLA does not contain any scores. The colours motivate students to close the gap one small piece at a time, ticking these off/colouring these in (best stuck on the fridge door). Tackling the AMBER squares must be the first priority.

FAQ – How is this information used?

We routinely display this style of information in school and use it in class to help with a personalised programme for closing the gap. The students (and some parents) have told us that they would like to have these available at home

so that they can work on their gaps outside of lessons. This is brilliant to hear as it shows that more and more of our students are becoming independent learners, taking charge of their own future achievement.

FAQ – How can I use this information to help my child?

Having the information also gives you, as interested parents a way to support your child by:

- Knowing what they know and what they don't;
- Helping them close each gap in turn (you might not know whether your child has mastered Forces but you will be able to see something like one of these);
 - his or her page of notes on Forces made using the revision guide
 - 30 minutes completed on Forces on SAM Learning (online)
 - 5 questions from the Forces page from Kerboodle (online)
 - 30 minutes completed on MyMaths (or using the Pixl Maths APP)
 - a poster containing interlinked facts
 - an additional similar question set by the teacher as learning development
 - any other evidence of additional learning

In class your child will be trying to close the gaps using the QLA but is unlikely to have the time to close them all. We suggest that you encourage your child to display his or her QLA somewhere public at home and encourage him or her to choose one gap per day to improve (AMBER first then RED).

FAQ – How do I get a copy of the QLA sheets?

The only mechanism we have available to share these QLA sheets with you, as well as displaying them openly around school is to post them as pdf files on the year 10 section of the website. If you do not wish your child to have access this personalised close the gap information please contact Jayne.Thacker@abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk from the Data Team who will remove your child's information before we publish. Unfortunately we will not be able to provide this information in any other format.

FAQ – What other support is there for helping my child to improve his/her grades?

We hope you take this opportunity (and the subsequent ones following each exam/assessment time) to get your child into good learning habits outside of the classroom, it will help him or her to add at least 2 grades to every GCSE outcome at the end of year 11. Please remember that your child can attend a subject specific INTERACT club or Learning Development club and close the gaps there if you feel that they need additional support.

Yours faithfully,



Dr L Newman
Deputy Headteacher

