

LAR

16 November 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to give you some information regarding how we assess our students and what you will expect to see when you receive your child's first report next week.

By the time your son/daughter reaches year 11, they will complete GCSEs which are graded 9-1 where 9 is the highest and 1 is the lowest. This replaces the current A*-U system. We no longer use national curriculum levels which you will have been familiar with at primary school. Year 7 students have been introduced to GCSE criteria since beginning at Abbey College and will have completed an assessment using this criteria.

Our new assessment strategy has the following aims:

- To reflect changes in the new GCSEs and the new grading system;
- To raise aspirations of our students by removing ceilings, so that all students can make sustained progress;
- To make CTGs (Close the Gaps) and 'next steps' clearer to students and their parents/carers;
- To introduce GCSE criteria earlier, so students have longer to work on the required skills;
- To ensure our curriculum supports the transition into GCSEs;
- To develop resilience in our students.

Mastery Assessments

Outline: The new report you receive will outline real GCSE Assessment Objectives (AOs) and how your child is progressing in the AOs which have been assessed so far. These are graded 9-1. Over the next 5 years, the same AOs are assessed, using the criteria sheet which your child has in every exercise book. It is expected that students will begin at the bottom of the grid, and make ongoing progress between now and the end of year 11 to reach their full potential.

Only some of the AOs will have been assessed at this point in the year. When you receive the second report in the Summer term, all the AOs will have been assessed. If your child is working towards grade 1, but not quite there yet, the report will have a dash in it. The mastery average gives you a general indication of the overall grade. It is a weighted average of all the AOs (please bear in mind they have not all been assessed yet).

Progress: As a parent/carers, you can use these assessment grids to discuss with your child their strengths and areas for improvement. Essentially they are always aiming for the next box up (i.e they have achieved a grade 1 in AO1 History, so they now need to work on the criteria in AO1, grade 2).

The ME (Minimum Expectation) column shows your child's target for the end of the year, so you can see how close they are to achieving the minimum we expect from them by the end of year 7.

Reports: Your child will bring home a paper copy of their report towards the end of next week. The second report will be emailed to you in the Summer term, so please ensure we have your correct email address. There are 2 reports for year 7 students this year, plus a Parents' Evening on Tuesday 1st December where you can discuss the report with teachers in more detail.

Attainment Assessments

Exams: In some subjects, particularly English & Maths, students may sit a full exam paper. As this assesses all the AOs, students are given one grade 9-1 to indicate their overall performance in the exam. The further up the school they go, the more they will complete.

Additional Information

The report will also show your child's current attendance, and a breakdown of their VIVO's in relation to our 5 school values. This information will have a direct impact on your child's progress, so please discuss this with them, and help them to set targets for the coming term.

Further information, including all the subject assessment grids are available on our new website under 'Parents & Carers', 'Assessment'. A short survey will also be released shortly, as your views are important to us.

If you have any queries about your child's report, please contact their form tutor in the first instance. There will be an opportunity to meet individual teachers at our Parents' Evening on Tuesday 1st December.

Yours sincerely,



Miss H. Farrag
Assistant Headteacher

