

21.12.17

Dear Parent/Carer,

STEP2 Report

We have introduced some new processes for monitoring students' progress. One of these is STEP, which stands for Student Tracking of Effort and Progress. Towards the end of each half term, teachers record each student's effort, their predicted grade at the end of Key Stage 4 and, where appropriate, any concerns about homework, coursework or attendance for every subject. We use this information to identify and put in place the necessary support to make sure students stay on track to achieve good GCSE results. We also share with parents a summary of the information collected.

Enclosed is the latest STEP report for your child. You will receive six reports over the course of the year, as part of our ongoing efforts to keep you fully informed about your child's predicted grades, effort levels, progress towards challenging targets and to raise any concerns.

In brief, the report gives you:

Effort	E1	Outstanding effort – Star student
	E2	Good effort – Aspiring Student
	E3	Positive effort – Positive about their learning
	E4	Wake up Call – May have received a C4 behaviour detention
	E5	Serious cause for concern – Targeted student for intensive intervention
	E6	Student may be in danger of permanent exclusion
Target	This is a GCSE, BTEC or Technical Award grade or number. It uses a calculation, based on previous primary school performance, to indicate what students should attain at the end of Key Stage 4. It is based on how students of a similar ability perform nationally in high performing schools.	
Prediction	This is a GCSE, BTEC or Technical Award grade or number (see below about GCSE grades changing), which the teacher predicts a student will attain at the end of Key Stage 4. It is based on their current performance and the teacher's professional judgement.	
Homework / Coursework	This indicates, where marked, that the teacher has a coursework concern or a homework concern	
Parents' Evening	This indicates that a subject teacher would particularly like to see you on Parents' Evening. You can see any of your child's teachers at Parents' Evening but please try to see those teachers who have specifically asked to see you	

We don't set targets and predictions for Life at Key Stage 3/4 as this subject is not formally assessed and there will only be targets and predictions for PE in Key Stage 4 where students are taking formal PE qualifications.

Over the last year, there have been reforms to many GCSE subjects in relation to the grading and structure of the courses. An outline of how the changes to grades will come into effect is provided below.

From Ofqual - GCSE grades are changing

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 were 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 achieved a grade C or better will get a grade 4 or better. Students who would have achieved 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 additional grade 9 will also make it easier for employers and universities to distinguish between the ablest students.

To see how the numbered grades, compare to the current A* to G see the information listed on the web link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-qualification-our-regulation-gcse-as-and-a-level-reforms>

Finally, can I draw your attention to some key dates in the near future:

Return following Christmas break: Monday 8th January 2018

Spring Half Term break: Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February inclusive.

Yours faithfully,

K J Hailes

Principal

Understanding STEPs

We use our STEP system to inform you about your child's progress. The frequency of the reports is every half term, which enables us to modify the provision and measure the impact of interventions closely. We hope you will be equally pleased with the frequency of which you receive information about your child's progress. In brief, the report provides you information about:

- **Effort (E1-E6)** - Parent/Carers should look at the effort grades first and foremost as a measure of their child's performance towards meeting or exceeding their target grade. This will provide a clear indicator of the work ethic in particular lessons.

E1 Star Student	E2 Aspiring Student	E3 Positive student	E4 Wake up Call	E5 Targeted Student	E6 Exclusion
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- **Target grades** - Each student will be given a target grade based on their prior attainment at primary school (secondary school if in sixth form). Each grade is generated using the top 5% of similar schools in the country as a baseline. The student target is what the student should attain at the end of KS4 or KS5 if they are in the sixth form.
- **Predicted attainment** - This is either their GCSE, BTEC or Technical Award grade or number. The teacher will predict what your son/daughter will attain at the end of their key stage/course based on their current performance and the teacher's professional judgment.

Year 7, 8 & 9 Targets and predictions are for the end of Key Stage 4 (1-9)	Year 10 Targets and predictions are for the end of Key Stage 4 (1-9)	Year 11 Targets and predictions are for the end of Key Stage 4 (1-9 or A* - U)
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- **Homework/Coursework** - This indicates where marked that the teacher has a coursework concern or a homework concern or both

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE	CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
U	G
	U

GOOD PASS (D/E)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

How does the academy set student targets?

Year 7 – Year 11

The academy sets individual student targets based on the achievements of the top 5% of similar schools nationally. The targets we have set our students are aspirational and we hope that the majority of students will be able to achieve them. As we continually evaluate and improve our teaching and learning structures, there is every chance that as an academy we can meet the aspirational targets for all our students.

Parents' Evening

There are three Parents' Evenings in an academic year where you can meet your child's teachers. The next Parents' Evening will take place on **Tuesday 20th February**. Teachers select parents/carers of students they particularly wish to see, and this information will be shown on your **next** STEPs report. However, if you as a parent/carer wish to see any of your child's teachers you can ask your child to make an appointment via their planner or you can contact the Academy via email and we will pass this onto the member of staff.

If you would like any further information, please contact the Academy on

0191 413 2113

