

Assessing Student Progress in KS3

A parents' guide to assessments and
progress reports

Why do we assess students?

- So we know what they have achieved and what their strengths are
- So we know where the 'gaps' are so we can target these with teaching and support
- To understand whether a student is on track to achieve their potential

Keeping parents updated

- We share our assessments with parents so they can understand their child's progress
- This is done through regular progress reports on the 'Parent App' and parents' evenings
- Staff are also happy to discuss your child's progress at any other point in between.

Sharing assessment with students

- It's very important that students understand their learning journey too.
- They need to know what is going well
- They also need to know what they can do to improve even further
- Students are made aware of this through lessons and mentoring

A mastery approach

Comprehensive
knowledge or skill
in a particular
subject

Deep learning and
understanding

Developing
expertise

Making sure
students 'get it'
before moving on

Our approach to assessment

- As far as possible, tests are frequent and ‘low stakes’ so they don’t place pressure on students and students develop good test/exam skills.
- Use of regular knowledge checks such as quizzes that allow teachers to adapt their teaching and fill ‘gaps’
- Assessment informs ‘misconceptions’ lessons where content is re-taught or reinforced if students need more practice or support
- Teaching informed by approaches that support memory and knowledge retention

Tests

- Students take a more substantial test at the end of each term.
- A cumulative approach e.g. the Y8 test will cover knowledge taught in Y7.
- Students should feel well prepared and should use knowledge organisers to practise and revise, all year round.
- Students gain a percentage mark for their test that shows how they are progressing.

How we will share this . . .

| English | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Test result | Minimum expected (pass mark) | Progress |
| 65% | 60% | <i>Making expected progress</i> |

This term Rosie has been studying the epic poem 'Beowulf'. Students have learnt about the plot, characters and context of the poem. They have explored the idea of the heroic code in the text and also learnt about the conventions of epic poetry. Students have also developed their knowledge of language devices and their effects. An example of this is the knowledge of how the poem uses alliteration to aid characterisation.

To continue making progress Rosie should:

- Learn key quotations from 'Beowulf' by heart.

Form Tutor Feedback . . .

Form Tutor

Rosie is a friendly and positive member of the form and she has settled well this year. She showed maturity and responsibility when taking her turn as a prefect and has since volunteered to be a form monitor and take on responsibility for keeping the form notice board updated. She has earned lots of house points this term and is particularly enjoying her choir elective. I'm pleased that her attendance has also been high this term. Well done Rosie!

What should parents look for . . .

- Is your child making expected progress? Updates will indicate

Expected progress/exceeding expected progress/not yet making expected progress

- Has your child met the minimum expected pass mark. The pass mark will vary and so you should not expect your child's marks to go up necessarily. The tests might vary in difficulty, so your child's mark might go down. They are still making expected progress if they meet the minimum expected mark.
- If students achieve significantly higher than the expected pass mark this will be indicated as 'exceeding expected progress'

Progress Updates - responding to parent feedback

- More frequent updates - once a term rather than twice a year, in addition to a parents' evening
- Clearer system - just one type of grade shared with parents so that there isn't confusion between ongoing assessment and test results.
- More personalised reports with form tutor comments
- Electronic system. Reports available through the Parent App
- Knowledge Organisers available on the website so parents are aware of what students are learning and can help them with their 'Next Steps'

Core Principles

Keeping parents
and students
informed

Using assessment
to inform support
and intervention

Ensuring students
are on track to
succeed

High expectations
but high levels of
support

Simplicity and
clarity