

# Assessing Student Progress in KS4

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
- Gradually integrated use of GCSE style questions
- Mocks from the end of year 10 to prepare students for GCSE

# Tests

- Students take a more substantial test at the end of each term.
- A cumulative approach e.g. the Y11 test will cover knowledge taught in Y10 and Y9.
- Students should feel well prepared and should use knowledge organisers to practise and revise, all year round.
- Students gain a mark for their test that shows how they are progressing.

# How we will share this . . .

Geography		
Current Grade	Target Grade	Progress
3	5	<i>Making expected progress</i>

This term Ben has been studying 'Changing Cities'. Students have learnt about urbanisation, migration, population distribution and the positive and negative impacts of gentrification. Students have also learnt about de-industrialisation and urban decline.

To continue making progress Ben should:

- Make sure he knows the Burgess and Hoyt models thoroughly
- Ensure he has a thorough knowledge of the positive and negatives of developing on brownfield and greenfield sites.



# Form Tutor Feedback . . .

## Form Tutor

Ben is a friendly and positive member of the form and he has settled well this year. He showed maturity and responsibility and volunteered to be a form monitor and take on responsibility for keeping the form notice board updated. He has earned lots of house points this term and is particularly enjoying his coding elective. I have been particularly impressed by Ben's contributions during current affairs sessions in form time. I'm pleased that his attendance has also been high this term. Well done Ben!

# What should parents look for . . .

- Is your child making expected progress? Updates will indicate

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

- Is your child on track to meet their target grade. On average students progress by around one GCSE grade a year.
- Check the knowledge organisers on our website for information on what your child is learning. Your child's Next Steps will relate to the knowledge organisers so you can talk to them about their learning at home.

# 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'

# Working at home

- Students in Key Stage 4 should be starting to complete revision at home.
- For students in year 10 we recommend:
  - 30 minutes a week of science revision, using books available through school
  - 30 minutes a week of maths revision, using books available through school
  - 30 minutes a week of English revision, using knowledge organisers, literary texts or revision booklets (We recommend York Notes)
  - 1 hour a week of revision across other subjects, using knowledge organisers. Advice can also be taken from subject teachers on revision content.
- Year 9 students should gradually build up their revision.
- Remember - study elective is Tuesdays and Thursdays 4.30 - 5.30, in the library

# 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