



15<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**RE: Year 7 Assessment Information Evening and Student Reporting update**

Dear Parent / Carer

As you may be aware, the school is currently working hard to develop our assessment systems so that we can report appropriate, useful and accurate data to yourselves on a more regular basis in order to drive up the levels of progress for our students. With this in mind, I am writing to ask for your feedback about our proposed school report.

Last half term we ran a parental workshop, where over forty parents attended, we are extremely grateful to those parents and we have benefitted from this hugely. During this workshop, many aspects of reporting were discussed, some of which may lead to a dramatic shift in the way we gather and report assessment and progress data. Since the meeting, we have been developing the systems in order that we can provide this information, and I am pleased to say that we are now in a position to share our proposal with you.

Attached to this letter are three versions of a school report relevant to each of the assessment types in the different year groups. Fundamentally, they are each the same; attainment can be tracked over the academic year in order that progress can be seen; the Government set target is shown for each subject, (or the amended target if appropriate), along with a teacher's progress grade. We have kept the Homework, (this shows quality as well as completion), and Attitude to Learning grades but have now added a "Recommendations to improve progress" column. We do not expect this to be completed for every subject, but for those that need additional support, this will provide some recommendations in order that the student can be further supported.

You may be aware that 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 will be the first subjects to be graded in this way from August 2017. Students will therefore receive a mixture of letter and number grades in summer 2017. To see how the numbered grades compare to the current A\* to G system I have attached the Ofqual guidance to help you. The school uses a "fine grade" system in order that we can be more forensic with our assessment data where we break each grade into thirds, (High, Medium and Low), for example, if I take the target grade of 8M as shown in the report, this translates as a medium level 8 grade, roughly equivalent to a high grade A under the old system.

We will hold an information evening in the near future to explain this in greater detail and I shall let you know the dates as soon as they are confirmed.

We are also currently developing a new, life without levels system for our Key Stage 3 students where they will be set annual expectations based on their prior attainment in Key Stage 2. Throughout the year they will be assessed on the extent to which they are achieving their annual age related expectation, (Emerging, Developing, Secure and Mastered). It would be expected that all students would start the year as Emerging, working towards being Secure by the end of the year. Some students may achieve Mastered in that subject, in which case their target grade may be increased in the following year to reflect this. This system will initially be used in Year 7, with Years 8 and 9 following.

We do understand that the information in these reports may seem a little "foreign" and we shall be running information evenings in the very near future to explain these, however, until we have received feedback from yourselves about the information you would like to see, we have decided to postpone this week's information evening. I shall write to advise you of the new dates as soon as I can.

We really would appreciate your feedback regarding these reports and if you have any comments or

suggestions, please email me at [rpeel@blpmail.org.uk](mailto:rpeel@blpmail.org.uk) or alternatively, I can be contacted at the school on 01296 688264. If all comments could be made by the 30<sup>th</sup> November, it would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Peel', with a small flourish at the end.

Mr R Peel  
Assistant Headteacher – Data, Assessment and Reporting