

27 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 9 Curriculum, Assessment and Examinations

We hope that your child has made a positive return to the new academic year. We are writing to make you aware of the Year 9 reporting arrangements, which should provide you with timely and helpful information about your child's progress and support the process of choosing the GCSE courses they will study in Key Stage 4. The options process will be launched to students in **January 2025**.

During the academic year you will receive two detailed gradesheets, providing information about your child's attitude to learning and academic achievements. These will be sent home electronically.

The first gradesheet will be issued **in December** and will include the following information for each subject:

- Attitude to Learning (AtL) grade
- End of Year 9 target Parmiter's Curriculum Level
- Indicator of progress towards this target
- Brief written comment.

The **Year 9 Consultation Evening will be held online on Tuesday 18 March 2025**, which will provide you with the opportunity to speak with some of your child's subject teachers.

The **second gradesheet** will be issued **in July** and will include the following information for each subject:

- Attitude to Learning (AtL) grade
- Parmiter's Curriculum Level your child has achieved at the end of Year 9
- Brief written comment
- Pastoral comment from your child's form tutor.

Assessment & Examinations

A variety of formal and informal assessment methods are used to recognise and support progress and attainment. Day to day, students will receive feedback; the immediacy of this is a valuable part of the learning process. During the year, students will also complete a number of summative assessments, such as end of topic tests, assessed tasks or formal examinations. These take place after the learning and recognise what has been learned and understood.

Year 9 will sit **formal school examinations during the week beginning Monday 28 April 2025**. These examinations will be held in the Sports Centre and are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in some of the subjects they have studied this year. It will also allow them to experience the formality of working within a large examination hall.

There are also two further weeks, the weeks commencing **Monday 19 May and Tuesday 3 June 2025** (note: Monday 2 June is an INSET day), which are designated as **Years 7 – 9 assessment weeks**, in which students may sit end of year assessments in a greater range of subjects. Information about the examination timetable and the assessment weeks will be provided nearer the time.

Information about the assessment arrangements in each subject is available on the school website (*under Academic, [Subjects](#)*). The website also provides additional information that may be of interest when reading your child's gradesheets; for example, an overview of the courses studied during the academic year and the Parmiter's Scale Descriptors.

Attendance & Punctuality

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that we ask parents/carers not to take students out of school during term time. We would also appreciate that all dental and non-urgent medical appointments are made out of school hours; this is particularly important during the assessment weeks detailed above. The Attendance Policy and information about reporting absences are available on the school website (*under Parents, [Attendance & Reporting Absence](#)*).

Homework

Your child will have received the homework timetable for this year. Please note that teachers will sometimes set a longer piece of homework which is intended to cover several homework slots; students will be advised of this and all the relevant details will be available on Google Classroom.

The Year 9 homework timetable and the school homework policy (which is within the [Teaching & Learning Policy](#)) are available on the school website. We encourage you to read the homework policy, which includes a guidance sheet for parents/carers and also guidance for students.

This letter, along with the homework timetable and other *curriculum, homework, assessment and school exams* information can be found under the drop down heading of this name on the [Letters to Parents & Carers](#) page of the website. We hope this will provide easy access to these key pieces of information throughout the year.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Baker / Mr B Hughes
Deputy Headteachers