

19TH APRIL 2021

This weekly bulletin for parents and carers shares the practices that are shaping our successful journey as a school. Each week will see a different focus covering aspects such as teaching & learning, curriculum, assessment, pastoral care, attendance, careers, well-being, personal development and much more.

HOW ARE STUDENTS ASSESSED IN THEIR SUBJECTS?

Students sit Key Piece assessments twice each half term in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science and once each half term in the foundation subjects. A Key Piece assessment is a test on the knowledge and application of that knowledge that has been delivered during that phase of the curriculum. Lessons building up to the Key Piece help students prepare for the assessment by practicing similar questions. It is equally important that students prepare for these assessments at home using the information in their knowledge organiser and by answering the hot and cold questions to help students remember key information.

Once a term students sit a larger assessment called a Working At (WA) assessment. Three WA assessments are completed in an academic year. The final WA assessment of the year (WA3) which is sat in the summer term will assess all the content that has been delivered up to that point throughout the year. The result of these assessments are posted home. For EBacc subjects; (English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, French, Spanish and Computer Science), the percentage a student achieved on the test is included on the school report along with the class and year group average for comparative purposes to gauge the progress a student is making in relation to their peers.

	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APR	MAY	JUNE
KS3 CORE		KP1&2	KP3&4	WA1	KP5&6	KP7&8	WA2	KP9&10	KP11	WA3
KS3 HUMS & MFL		KP1	KP2	WTM WA1	KP3	KP4	WTM WA2	KP5	KP6	WTM WA3
KS3 OTHER		KP1	KP2	WA1	KP3	KP4	WA2	KP5	KP6	WA3

KS3 Assessment Map showing Key Piece and WA assessment timing across the school year

WHAT IS A RAP LESSON?

A RAP lesson stands for Reflect, Act, Progress. The lesson that follows a Key Piece or a WA assessment is always a dedicated RAP lesson. This is where students have their work returned to them with the teacher modelling what the model answers look like. Students are made clear where their main misconceptions were and are given the opportunity to answer personalised questions to strengthen the knowledge that was previously fragile. The information that is given back to students from the teacher is on blue paper so it is easy to identify in a student's exercise book.

WHAT IS AN END OF SCHOOL TARGET?

The end of school target is the minimum grade a student should be aiming to achieve in a subject by the end of Year 11 when they leave school. This grade is set by a target setting system designed by an organisation called the Fisher Family Trust. If a student achieves the set target grade it would mean they have achieved as well as the top 20% of students across the country with the same ability in that subject.

WILL STUDENTS BE ACHIEVING THEIR END OF SCHOOL TARGET IN YEAR 10?

The current working grade that is awarded in Year 10 for each subject is the grade students are working at during that point in the year. Year 10 students normally will have completed just over half of the GCSE specification out of their two-year Key stage 4 curriculum so it is very unlikely students will be working at the highest grades in Year 10. Year 10 will not have yet developed the full range of skills and knowledge which will grow over time as they are exposed to more curriculum content. As students move through their Key Stage 4 journey, the grades awarded will increase acknowledging the greater curriculum coverage and application of knowledge. Typically, student performance increases by several grades from the first term in Year 10 to what is achieved at the end of Year 11.

IMPORTANT DATES:

**KS3 WA3 ASSESSMENTS START MONDAY 21ST JUNE – THURSDAY 1ST
JULY**

YEAR 10 MOCK EXAMS START MONDAY 14TH JUNE – FRIDAY 25TH JUNE