



17 November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the next week we will issue Year 10 students with their Key Stage 4 (GCSE) Minimum Target Grades. This is the minimum grade we expect your child to achieve at the end of Year 11. This is a 'fixed' grade and will be accompanied by a Realistic Expected Grade on reports and when we feedback to you on progress.

The Minimum Target Grade is not a ceiling on achievement and we will always aim for students to achieve higher. It is an important point of reference for them, you and us over the next 18 months so we can work in partnership to allow our students to reach their potential.

### **Why have Key Stage 4 targets and where do they come from?**

- This indicates the minimum grade we expect a child to achieve when they leave us in Year 11. It is possible for students to exceed their target but where this occurs the target grade will remain static.
- The target is based on the performance of each student at the end of Key Stage 2. For this cohort the Key Stage 2 performance was determined by teacher assessment following the cancellation of SATs in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **What grades are awarded at Key Stage 4?**

- In GCSE subjects, students are graded from 1-9, with 9 being the highest grade. A benchmark to consider in the 1-9 system is that a grade 4 is classed as a standard pass and a grade 5 is classed as a good pass.
- In vocational subjects, students are graded in two levels (1 and 2) with the addition of pass, merit, distinction or distinction star allocated to the level. The equivalence to a GCSE grade varies depending on the exam board and the course, however, a broad guide is provided below.

| <b>GCSE Grade</b> | <b>Vocational Grade</b> | <b>Vocational Grade Code</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1                 | L1 Pass                 | P1                           |
| 2                 | L1 Merit                | M1                           |
| 3                 | L1 Distinction          | D1                           |
| 4                 | L2 Pass                 | P2                           |
| 5 & 6             | L2 Merit                | M2                           |
| 7                 | L2 Distinction          | D2                           |
| 8 & 9             | L2 Distinction*         | D2*                          |

## Realistic Expected Grades (REGs)

- When reporting on progress during Key Stage 4, teachers will produce a Realistic Expected Grade (REG); this is the grade that we realistically expect your child to achieve at the end of Year 11.
- The REG is derived from regular assessments in conjunction with in-class performance, attitude to learning, attendance and teacher judgement.
- The REG is always issued based on the premise that the student's attitude to learning continues as it is when the grade was given. It is therefore possible for the REG to change positively or negatively based on a student's changing attitude to learning.
- The REG can, and in some cases is, different to the target; this indicates the level progress (see the example below).

| Subject | Target | REG | Progress     |
|---------|--------|-----|--------------|
| English | 5      | 6   | Above target |
| Maths   | 5      | 7   | Above target |
| Science | 5-5    | 4-4 | Below target |
| History | 5      | 5   | On target    |

- The REG is not an exact science, however, we are confident that our robust assessment procedures, experienced teachers and achievement cycle allow us to be as accurate as we can be at that particular point in a child's Key Stage 4 journey.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully,



**Miss P Langston**  
**Deputy Headteacher**