9th December 2020

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers,

RE: Progress Reports

Firstly, we hope that you and your families are keeping well. We have been so pleased to be back in school, welcoming our Year 7 students since the beginning of September. With students having been out of school since the end of March, it has been a term filled with hard work from both our students and their teachers. We know that for a variety of reasons during lockdown, many found working from home a challenge. Therefore, it has been really important for our staff to have time to assess students and to find out what gaps they have in their learning and how we can support them going forwards . This letter aims to outline some key information on this process.

Assessment and Reports

We recently completed some brief assessments with Year 7 students, as at this point we are keen to find out how students have been progressing with their studies given our lack of KS2 SATs data. We will be writing to you shortly with their progress but wanted to take some time to explain what the reports will look like prior to their arrival.

The report will contain the student's:

- Target Grade: these are aspirational and generated based on baseline testing
- Progress Statement: either '+' (above), '=' (on), or '-' (below) target. This will have been generated at the discretion of the class teacher and based on student performance in class, any homework/assessments)
- Effort Score: either 'Excellent', 'Good', 'Requires Improvement', or 'Unacceptable'

At this point in the academic year, we will not at this stage be sharing a current working grade. With students having had time out of school, having only sat brief assessments and the current uncertainty around the examination system, we feel that an indication of progress and effort are the most useful information that can be provided at this point. Later in the year, when we have the opportunity to sit more thorough assessments, we will be in a position to discuss grades in more detail.

We will be working extensively to look at the data and ensure we are in contact with parents where we have concerns about progress beyond what we would expect at this point. We will be aiming to have these conversations as soon as possible, and we anticipate that reports will be available on the MCAS portal/app on 10th December 2020.

If you do not hear from us but upon receiving the data have overall concerns about the progress of your son/daughter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself, Mrs Mondo or Miss Berkeley and we will be in touch as soon as possible to discuss these with you.

Principal – Ms Catrin Green

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If you have concerns about individual subjects, please contact the subject teacher or curriculum leader in the first instance. There will be an opportunity in the New Year to discuss progress with individual teachers. We are working on being able to hold this remotely should it be necessary to do so.

We have also created a short video to help explain the layout of the reports, please click on the below link to view.

Reports explained

Parents' Evening

When planning the academic year in the summer, we put dates for parents' evenings in the calendar for after Christmas in the hope that we would be able to hold them in person. Unfortunately, it is now looking that this will be highly unlikely. However, we are making plans to hold these events virtually, and having had students back in the Academy for a term, and having taken some assessments, we feel that we will be in a strong position to give accurate and constructive feedback to help students achieve the results they deserve at the end of their studies.

As you are all aware, Year 7 had 'Meet the Mentor' phone calls earlier in the year to give you an idea of how your child(ren) was settling into the Academy. Therefore, the first Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place on Wednesday 5th May 2021 in order for other year groups who have not had this opportunity for contact yet this academic year to speak with staff.

Catch-up curriculum

We are aware that with students having missed approximately 4 months of regular schooling, students will have developed gaps in their knowledge and understanding that may mean they are making less than expected progress in one or more of their subjects. Our curriculum leaders have planned extensively to ensure that any learning missed during these months will be caught up at the right time for students to still achieve the best grades. However, we are also aware that this will take time, and we are not expecting students to have made up this progress within the first half term of the new Academic year- the point at which these first set of assessments were sat which inform the reports.

We really appreciate your continued support throughout what has been a challenging year in education. We continue to work as hard as we can throughout this time to support you and your families and ensure your son/daughter makes the progress in their learning they are capable of.

Yours sincerely,

Mr B Hodges	Mrs S Mondo	Miss Elizabeth Berkeley
Assistant Principal	**Year 7 Family Leader**	**Year 7 Deputy Family Leader**