

WS/Rns

21 October 2016

Clifford Moor Road
Boston Spa
West Yorkshire
LS23 6RW

Dear Parents/Carers

As your child approaches the end of their first half term of Year 9 I thought it would be useful to write to you to explain some of the changes to GCSEs and grading and to explain how we have set your child's target grades.

You are probably aware that the government has recently announced radical changes to the structure and assessment of GCSEs. We are moving away from the familiar system of A*-G grades to a new system of grading with numbers. This affects most, but not all subjects this year and you may notice your child has mixture of letter and number grades and targets.

Because the content in the new GCSEs is so different there is no simple and direct way to convert between the old GCSE A*-G grades and the new number grades. The table below should help explain this, though you will see a straight forward comparison isn't that easy. Currently a "good" GCSE is considered to be a C or above. From 2017 and beyond this changes to a Grade 5, which as you will see is roughly equivalent to a high C or the bottom third of a grade B. Broadly speaking the same proportion of students will achieve Grade 4 and above as currently achieve Grade C and above and the same proportion will achieve grade 7 and above as currently achieve grade A and above.

New Grades	Current Grades
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D E F G
2	
1	
U	U

Targets for Years 9 and 10 are generated using data from Fischer Family Trust. Fischer Family Trust

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Reception 01937 846636 Year 7 Office 01937 846607 Years 8 & 9 Office 01937 846608 Years 10/11 Office 01937 846611 Years 12/13 Office 01937 846612

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Headteacher: Mr Christopher Walsh BA, MA

use data from hundreds of thousands of students and using end of Key Stage Two data they allow us to see the grades each student should achieve if they were attending one of the top 5% of schools in the country. These are aspirational but achievable targets. Your child will have an individual target for each subject based on the students' performance in Year 6 and the progress that they are expected to make. These have also been adjusted by Learning Teams in order to ensure that they are supporting students in aiming for the best grade they possibly can. These targets are not a ceiling and students should be looking to achieve their targets and should remember that we have a large number of students each year who make better than expected progress.

We will send you progress reports throughout the school year. Each teacher will give you an effort and a Professional Predicted Grade. The effort grade tells you how good your child's attitude to learning is in each subject. Based on work completed so far, the Professional Predicted Grade tells you what grade your child is likely to achieve in the final exam.

Your child should be achieving their target grade in some of their subjects, which will show that they are making good progress. If your child achieves their target in most or all of their subjects you will know that they are making outstanding progress.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress or please contact Mr Cooke, their Progress and Guidance Leader, or for subject specific questions, please contact the relevant Learning Team Leader via the school office on 01937846636.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Westerman'.

Georgia Westerman
Deputy Headteacher