Assessment and Reporting 2015-16

Reporting

When will I receive my child's reports?

You will receive a report each half term so that you have up-to-date information on your child's progress throughout the year. In addition, you will receive a more detailed, full report, once a year.

The full reports will be published as follows:

Year 7 - March

Year 8 - December

Year 9 - June

Year 10 - January

Year 11 - October

Parents' evenings

The main Parents' evening for Years 7 and 11 is on 12th November 2015 when subject teachers will be available between 4.30 and 7:30pm.

Futures Evening for Year 8 is on 21st January and includes the traditional discussions with subject teachers, as well as an opportunity to discuss your child's options for Key Stage 4.

The main Parents' evening for Years 9 and 10 is on 21st April 2016 when subject teachers will be available between 4.30 and 7:30pm.

It is easy to book a convenient time through our online booking system

To access the booking system, go to www.pcs.hants.sch.uk, Information for Parents and Parents' Evening Bookings. If you are unable to book your appointments online there is a slip below for you to complete and return to your child's mentor. Your appointment slip will be given back to your child with your times.

Student Review Days

The first day of each new academic year is a Student Review Day. This is an opportunity for you and your child to discuss your child's academic and personal targets with his or her mentor.

There is a second Student Review Day on 11th February 2016 when you and your child have the opportunity to review progress with his or her mentor.

Additional Evenings for Year 11

In addition, there are three further presentation and discussion sessions for Year 11, and their parents, in September, January, and March. These focus on how to support your child to achieve success in their exams.

Your support is vitally important to your child's success so we hope you will be able to join us on these occasions.

Assessment

Changes to the grading system

You may be aware that the Government are in the process of changing the way GCSEs are graded in the future.

Key Stage 3 [Years 7 and 8]

This year all primary and secondary schools are required to start teaching the new National Curriculum. As part of the changes to the national curriculum the system used to report children's attainment will end this summer. Our

present Year 7 will be the last year to have their attainment, at the end of primary school, measured using National Curriculum levels.

In future students will be given a target point. As before this will be based on their Key Stage 2 test results. The aim is for them to hit that same target point throughout their time at Secondary school. Each year hitting their target point will become increasingly challenging as the expectations become more demanding and the specific skills and knowledge they have to master become more complex.

Key Stage 4 [Years 9 and 11]

The exams taken by Year 11 this summer [2016] will be the last time that all subjects are graded using the A* to G system.

In 2017 the system begins to change. The present Year 10 group will have their English and Mathematics graded using a new system of 1 to 9 points, whilst all other subjects will be graded using the old A* to G system.

In 2018 the new grading system will be applied to all subjects; 1 being the lowest grade, and 9 being the highest grade. The Government has published the following guidance to help clarify the changes:

- 1. Broadly the same proportion of students who currently achieve a grade C and above will achieve a grade 4 and above.
- 2. Broadly the same proportion of students who currently achieve a grade A and above, will achieve a grade 7 and above.
- 3. Grade 5 will be positioned in the top third of the marks for a current grade C, and bottom third of the marks for a current grade B.
- 4. The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.

What does this mean for our students' reports?

Year 11 – All Year 11 subject reports will use the old A* to G system for grading attainment.

Year 10 - The new 1 to 9 points system will be used in English and Mathematics for grading assessment. All other subjects will use the old A* to G system.

Year 9 and below – All subjects will use the new 1 to 9 points system for grading attainment.

What will progress look like?

Due to the changes the way the way your child's progress is recorded will look different. Previously we would expect to see a rise in National Curriculum levels as a student progresses through the school, from a 4c to a 5a for example. Our new assessment system will assess if a student is on track to reach their target point score in Year 11. We will expect students to maintain a steady point score across the years.

For example, a student assessed at 5 points in Year 7 will be expected to maintain that point score in Years 8 to 11, or move to 6 points. The targets and points may not be the same in every subject or unit, but will depend on a student's aptitude and progress over time. However, we expect their point score to be broadly similar to their target at all times. This shows that they are making consistent progress in line with expectations. It also indicates that they are on track to achieve their GCSE target.

Do you have further questions?

If you would like to discuss any of the changes with us, please do get in contact with Paul Grundy who is responsible for coordinating data and assessment reporting <u>p.grundy@pcs.hants.sch.uk</u>