



1st March 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

Reporting to Parents – Go4Schools Explained

I would like to take this opportunity to explain a few things about how reporting and assessment works at Holbrook Academy. There is lots to understand about things like Progress 8, Attainment 8 and so on, but this should not concern you at this stage of your child's secondary education.

What should concern you (and us) is how your child is progressing in each of their subjects. Are they demonstrating that they have learnt the skills and knowledge imparted upon them by their teachers across the curriculum? Are there any particular strengths or areas for development which we can all work on together to ensure they succeed? Are they happy, putting effort in and behaving themselves in the manner we expect of Holbrook students? These are all questions which can be answered by reviewing your child's report and/or current working levels at any time on Go4Schools.

Progress

Students arrive at Holbrook Academy from a wide range of primary schools. Almost all of them have undertaken SATs tests the summer prior. We use this information, and that provided directly by your child's primary school teachers, to form our understanding of the level each student is working at. The government expect children to make progress in line with their KS3 starting points and it is these expectations which form your child's GCSE target grade. We made the decision to not share these targets with KS3 children so as not to distract anybody from the key reason they go to school: to learn and achieve, while enjoying their education.

However, that said, staff will assess your child's progress and attainment in their lessons against these targets. They will know the level that students should be working at if they are to go on to achieve their target grades in their subjects. With this in mind, teachers have a range of options to select from when reporting to parents (and me) regarding the progress each child is making:

1. Exceptional Progress – This means that a child is working above the standard we would expect of a child of that ability.
2. On Track – Signifies that a child is working at the expected standard.
3. Working Towards – Student has shown glimpses of starting to work at the required standard but there is still work to do.
4. U – Child is not yet working at the required standard.

In the case of all of the descriptors above, but particularly Working Towards and U, your child must have information from the teacher in the form of carefully constructed feedback about how they can improve. It is then down to the individual child to work on these areas to demonstrate the progress they have made.

Behaviour & Effort

Teachers also assess your child's behaviour and effort in lessons. This is marked on 1-4 scale using the below descriptors:

1. Student demonstrates exemplary standards of behaviour at all times.
2. Student usually demonstrates good standards of behaviour.
3. Student occasionally demonstrates standards of behaviour that may cause distraction to others.
4. Student often demonstrates standards of behaviour which disrupt learning for themselves and others. This must be improved upon.

I hope that this explanation makes things clear for you, but please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy, either through the office or directly by email: philip.hart@holbrookacademy.org

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Hart
Assistant Headteacher