

SBC/ET
September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9: 2018-19

I am writing to explain the ways in which we will communicate with you and inform you of your child's progress during Year 9. This should mean that you can take the opportunities to discuss progress with your son/daughter at intervals during the year.

Year 9 is a key transition year as pupils come to the end of their studies in some subjects while choosing to continue others, or indeed new ones, for study in Years 10 and 11.

Summary Reports

You will receive a summary report on 16th November 2018 giving 'Behaviour for Learning' grades and progress grades.

Behaviour for Learning

When looking at summary reports please be aware that the "Behaviour for Learning" grades are most important. If your son/daughter is properly organised, attentive, well-mannered and trying their best then they will make good progress throughout the school. If not then we will use school sanctions to remind them of our expectations (see enclosed sheet) and to ensure that the learning of other pupils is not affected.

I include the Behaviour for Learning Grades below for your information. Please discuss these now with your son/daughter and when you receive reports.

	Descriptor
Grade 1	<p>"Excellent" behaviour for learning would typically include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupil consistently displays a very positive attitude towards learning – very eager to learn ▪ Remain on-task and productive, e.g. in independent, group and whole class work ▪ Very well prepared incl. homework completed to a high standard ▪ Punctual and organised (e.g. brings the right equipment) for lessons ▪ The pupil shows excellent conduct, manners and punctuality ▪ Takes great pride in their work
Grade 2	<p>"Good" behaviour for learning would typically include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupil's attitude to all aspects of learning is consistently positive ▪ Remains on-task in whole class work, group work, or when working on their own ▪ Properly prepared for lessons incl. homework completed ▪ Brings the right equipment, and is ready and eager to learn ▪ Punctual ▪ Responds very quickly to instructions and requests by staff ▪ Allows lessons to flow smoothly and without interruption. Low level disruption is uncommon. ▪ Takes pride in their work
Grade 3	<p>Behaviour for learning where "improvement is needed"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improvement is needed in the pupil's behaviour for learning as there are several aspects which are not good. (See descriptor for 'Good' above)

Grade 4	<p>“Unsatisfactory” behaviour for learning would typically include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pupil persistently lacks engagement ▪ Poor attitude and lack of self-discipline has a significantly negative effect on own progress ▪ Persistent low-level disruption of the learning environment ▪ Periodic major disruption to learning environment ▪ Lack of respect and/or manners and/or intolerance shown towards each other or staff ▪ Refusal to follow instructions
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Year 9 Retreat

In the week beginning 28th January 2019 Year 9 have the opportunity to get away from academic work with a residential retreat at the Emmaus Village in Allensford. Catherine Davison, our chaplain, will inform pupils of this.

Full Reports

Year 9 will receive written reports on 6th February 2019 with Parents' Evening on Monday 11th February 2019. This placement of reports and Parents' Evening is designed to inform conversations you will be having with your child regarding their option choices for Year 10. There will also be an Information Evening on Thursday 17th January 2019 to outline the curriculum for Years 10 and 11.

Examinations

A further summary report will be sent home before Easter and then Year 9 exams take place in the week beginning 3rd June 2019 which means that pupils should be revising the year's work before and during half-term.

The results of the exams will form the basis of a final summary report in July 2019.

You will receive information about our progress grade system with the first summary reports.

General Information

Other general information will be communicated to you through:-

- the weekly email to parents (Fridays) **(Please remember to update all email address and mobile phone number changes with the school office)**
- our half termly newsletter
- letters from Head of Year
- the school website

If you wish to contact the school about a particular concern please ring either that day or the day after and ask for the Head of Year. If they are not available they will get back to you as soon as reasonably possible. Please do not arrive at school without prior arrangement.

I am required by law to remind you that you should not take your child out of school for holidays during term-time. The vast majority of parents know and support this, yet I continue to receive some requests each year. Please plan your holidays for the thirteen weeks of the year outside of term-time and help your child to maintain the very high level of attendance necessary for them to reach their full potential at school.

Thank you in advance for your support and best wishes to your son/daughter for the important year ahead.

Yours sincerely
S. B. Campbell
Head Teacher