

29 September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

“Student target setting and new style reports”

Student targets

As you may be aware, over the last few years, students at Maiden Erlegh Trust Schools have been involved in a process of setting themselves ambitious academic targets based on information provided by Fischer Family Trust. The Fischer Family Trust is an independent, non-profit organisation which is mainly involved in undertaking and supporting projects addressing the development of education in the UK. In this our aim is to promote student engagement and involvement in their own learning and progress.

On Friday 29 September during the tutor period students in Years 7 to 9 will be given subject estimates generated by FFT on the new 1 to 9 GCSE grading system. Students in Year 7 and those who have opted for new subjects in Year 9 will be setting their targets and students in Years 8 to 9 will be reviewing their previously set targets using their estimates as a guide. Students for whom we have no Key Stage 2 data will be guided by their teachers to choose appropriate targets based on the estimates for similar students in their classes.

For each subject a percentage estimate is given for achieving each grade in that subject. A recommended grade is also shown and students are encouraged to choose a target grade that is in line with this recommended grade. The recommended grade is one grade above the grade that an average student with their starting point would achieve. These estimates are intended purely as a guide to help you, your child and their teacher set a “student owned” target grade.

For example, if your child has a 46% chance of achieving a grade 6 in Biology and a 21% chance of gaining a grade 7 then the estimates are telling you that 1 in 5 of similar students will go on to gain this higher grade 7. With support, and their desire to do well, could your son/daughter be one of those students who achieve the grade 7?

The students will be asked to make a preliminary suggestion about the target they wish to set themselves and record it in the suggested target column. During the lessons over the following two weeks their teacher will discuss this with them and, using their professional experience, will help guide your child to an agreed student target. If a student is reviewing a previously agreed target, then the new target may be higher or lower than before.

New style reports

At the end of this half term all student reports will now be in the new style. These new reports have arisen out of the full consultation last year and were used as a trial at the end of last year with Year 7. The new reports have been introduced during parents’ information evenings this term and have been warmly received. They now include colour coding to help you spot at a glance where there may be concerns with progress. They show a flight path of grades that would need to be achieved for your child to meet their aspirational benchmark. They also include behaviour for learning codes which will celebrate both good learning behaviours and suggest learning behaviours that if adopted would benefit your child.

I am writing today to inform you about this process and engage your support. To help you understand this process more clearly further information has been or will be available during the various information evenings that are calendared during September and October.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Attridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "G".

Mr G Attridge
Assistant Headteacher/Data and Tracking