

February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Praising Stars© 3 Report

Please find enclosed Praising Stars© 3 information for your child. You will receive a further report towards the end of the year, as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure you are kept fully informed of their progress towards challenging targets, effort levels and to flag up any concerns.

In brief, the report gives you:

<u>Effort</u>	E1/E2	Outstanding/Good Effort with remote learning
	E3	Some effort with remote learning
	E4	Concerns over effort with remote learning
	E5	Serious cause for concern – target student for intensive intervention
	E6	Student may be in danger of permanent exclusion
<u>Target</u>	This is: a GCSE number. It uses a calculation, based on previous performance, to indicate what students should attain at the end of Key Stage 4. It is based on how students of a similar ability perform nationally in high performing schools.	
<u>Prediction</u>	Again, this is: a GCSE number, which the teacher predicts a student will attain at the end of Key Stage 4. It is based on their current performance and the teacher's professional judgement.	
<u>Attendance</u>	This indicates, where marked, that the teacher has a concern regarding a student's attendance to their online lessons.	

For Key Stage 4 Targets and predictions now appear as a number, rather than an alphabetical grade. An outline of how the changes to grades have been introduced is provided below:

From Ofqual

GCSE grades are changing

GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. English literature, English language and maths will be the first subjects to be graded in this way from August 2017. The subjects with the highest numbers of candidates (e.g. arts, humanities, languages) will follow in 2018 and most others in 2019. This is happening as GCSEs are being reformed to make them more challenging, to keep pace with employers' and universities demands.

In the first year each new GCSE subject is introduced, students who would have got a grade C or better will get a grade 4 or better. Students who would have got a Grade A or better will get a 7 or better in the first year. Grade 9 will be more difficult to achieve than a grade A*. The extra top grade will also make it easier for employers and universities to distinguish between the most able students.

To see how the numbered grades, compare to the current A* to G system, Google "Ofqual 9 to 1 postcard". More information about when subjects will switch to the new grades is available on the Ofqual website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>).

Attendance

The majority of our students have excellent attendance and punctuality to online lessons, regularly arriving at the time required but it is still a concern that other students either do not attend regularly or arrive after live lessons have begun.

Can I remind parents/carers of the damaging impact that regular lateness and absence from the live learning can have upon a young person's academic progress, due to exaggerated periods of time away from learning and their chronological peer group.

I hope that I can rely upon your support to ensure that your son/daughter attends live lessons regularly and arrives by 8.20am each day.

If your child is struggling to access online learning and is need of additional support, please contact home-learning@bishopsgarth.outwood.com

Work packs

As an Academy we are aware that a small number of students are not able to work online and have been provided with personalised work packs. This has also been reflected in the effort grades awarded to students. It is important to note that work packs must be returned so that staff are able to provide an accurate reflection of pupil engagement at this time.

Year 11

We recognise that these are very unusual times for our Year 11 students. Dr Wilson, our Head of Science, will be mentoring students both for academic and pastoral support who are interested in studying A levels and have university level education as a career goal, but she is also available to support any Year 11 student who feels they would benefit from further mentoring.

Expectations

We have very clear expectations regarding acceptable usage and conduct whilst students are working online. This is to ensure that all students can work in an environment that is productive, conducive to learning and upholds the Academy's high standards. The Virtual Classroom provides a unique opportunity for us all to work together in a new environment. We hope that all students continue to respect the rules which will allow us to work collaboratively and maintain our Academy community and standards. Please continue to support our efforts to ensure students are being BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL AND BE RESPONSIBLE.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this very difficult time we are so proud of our students who have shown superb dedication and commitment to their learning despite the challenging circumstances.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Simpson
Assistant Principal