



Brine Leas School

An Academy

Believe • Learn • Succeed

November 2019

Year 8 Changes to Progress Data Reports

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you may remember from the Year 8 Information Evening in September, we have made some changes to the data that we gather, to report your child's progress to you. Historically, you received your child's target GCSE grade, predicted GCSE grade as well as an indication of organisational skills and attitude to work.

Going forward, we will not be using GCSE grades when reporting to parents of children in Year 8. The reason for this is to give the necessary information for monitoring progress, against the curriculum your child is studying.

In terms of curriculum, Key Stage 3 has never been - and never will be - merely a preparation phase for GCSE. Children are not on a 5-year GCSE course here at Brine Leas. We work hard to ensure that our Key Stage 3 curriculum is rich and ambitious in its own right. For that reason, children study authors and novels in English lessons, or foreign films in language lessons, that do not appear on GCSE specifications.

You will still receive data three times per year, via My Child At School. For each subject, this data will be:

1. A descriptor which will indicate your child's progress: **exceeding expected progress, making expected progress, or more effort and application required to meet expected standard.**

2. A descriptor of the extent to which your child exhibits outstanding learning behaviour. For each subject, this will be shown as either **always, usually, sometimes or rarely** and the descriptor applies to these statements:

- * punctual, proactive, positive and equipped
- * strive to do my best, even when work is challenging
- * complete my classwork, homework and respond to feedback
- * respectful to myself, my peers, school staff and the school environment

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The 'outstanding learning behaviour' indicator replaces 'organisation' and 'attitude to work'. We have made this change so that the systems and the language we use with parents, mirrors that used in school. Students are familiar with 'outstanding learning behaviour'. Their 'learning behaviour' cards and merit books are part of the 'learning behaviour' policy.

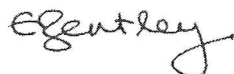
3. In addition, we have added a 'next step'. These are subject-specific recommendations from your child's teacher, as to what your child should do in order to further his / her progress.

We have made this change to help you, to help your child. The 'next step' will inform you of a precise change or improvement your child can make in lessons, in homework or in effort.

Progress reports will include GCSE target grades and GCSE predicted grades, from the spring term of Year 9 so that parents, carers and students have the necessary information in readiness for the Key Stage 4 options process. Further information on this will be provided nearer the time.

I am very grateful to the parents who have contributed their ideas and suggestions to these changes. If you have any further feedback, after having received the first data report, please do contact me on the school number.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Bentley

EBY, EG, DCE

Assistant Headteacher