

17 December 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Praising Stars© 2 Report

As the end of the autumn term approaches we hope that your son/daughter continues to thrive in lessons and is striving to make progress. Please find enclosed Praising Stars© 2 information for your child. This is the second of the six reports that will be produced throughout the academic year, to ensure you are kept fully informed about progress towards challenging targets, effort levels and to flag up any concerns. Please note this report does not have a Parents Evening linked to it. The next Parents Evening is after Praising Stars © 3 reports have been issued.

In brief, the report gives you:

Effort	E1/E2	Outstanding/good effort – Star Student
	E3	Positive effort – doing most of what we expect
	E4	Cause for concern – may have received a C4 department detention
Target	This uses your son/daughter's performance at the end of Key Stage 2 to calculate what they should attain at the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11). Targets are based on how students of a similar ability perform nationally in the top 5% of schools.	
Prediction	This is either a GCSE Grade or number * which each teacher predicts your son/daughter will attain at the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11) based on their current performance and the teacher's professional judgement. If a student is studying a BTEC qualification, then an A* = Distinction*, A = Distinction, B = Merit, C = Pass, W = working towards a pass and U = Fail * <i>please refer to the attached letter</i>	
Homework / Coursework	This indicates, where marked, that the teacher has a coursework concern (C) or a homework concern (H) or both (HC).	
Attendance	This indicates, where marked with an X, that the teacher has a concern that your son/daughter's attendance in their lessons is having a negative effect on performance and progress.	

The effort grades represent a student's effort from the last Praising Stars Report until now. All students will start each Praising Stars© cycle as an E1 student in all subjects. We would be delighted if they were able to maintain this effort right through the next half term, but if they haven't this will be reflected in their grades.

To ensure we know you have received this report, I would be grateful if you could complete the section below and return it to your child's VMG tomorrow, or as soon as possible afterwards. This will avoid unnecessary phone calls and/or letters home to check you have received this. Feel free to write any additional comments on the reverse of the slip.

Yours sincerely



Ms Seana Rice
Vice Principal

Dear VMG tutor

I am the parent/carer of: _____

VMG: _____

I confirm that I have received and read his/her Praising Stars© 2 report.

Name (Parent): _____

Signed (Parent): _____

Date: _____

Please return this slip to your child's VMG tutor straight after half-term. Thank you.

Any additional comments:

30 November 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

Praising Stars® Reporting and the New GCSE Examination Grades

The Government have started to reform the current GCSE examination system. They are phasing in the changes over a number of years.

The first examinations to be affected will be English and Maths, followed by Science, then the Ebac subjects of: Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Computer Science and finally all other subjects by 2020. We will begin reporting your child's Praising Stars® grades using the new grades where they have been reformed. The table below shows how the old GCSE grades relate to the new grades;

New GCSE Grades	9	8	7	6	5*	4	3	2	1	U
Current GCSE Grades	A*	A	B	C*	D	E	F	G	U	U

*The Department for Education have now determined that a Grade 5 is a 'Good Grade' with a level 4 being the lower part of an old Grade C.

How does this affect my child in Year 11?

There are no changes to your child's grades and therefore they will sit exams in 2016 based on the traditional Grades A*-G

How does this affect my child in Year 10?

The only changes to your child's grades are in English and Maths which they will sit in 2017. These will be based on the number grades 1-9, all other subjects will be based on the traditional Grades A*-G. Praising Stars® reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2017.

How does this affect my child in Year 9?

The changes to your child's grades will affect English, Maths and Science which they will sit in 2018. These will be based on the numeric grades 1-9 and all other subjects will be based on the traditional Grades A*-G. The options your child is studying will be examined in 2017 and will be based on A*-C Grades: Praising Stars® reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2017 and 2018.

How does this affect my child in Year 8?

The changes to your child's grades will affect English, Maths, Science and the Ebac subjects of Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Computer Science, which they will sit in 2019. These will be based on the numeric grades 1-9 and all other subjects will be the traditional Grades A*-G. Praising Stars® reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2019.

How does this affect my child in Year 7?

All your child's grades will be based on the new reformed GCSEs and will be based on the numbers 1-9.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Wappat
Principal