

7 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Praising Stars© 4 Report

As we pass the midway point of the academic year, we hope that your son/daughter is enjoying their learning and latest Enrichment opportunities. Please find enclosed Praising Stars© 4 information for your child. This is the fourth 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 gives you the opportunity to attend a parents' evening on Thursday 27 April. This is strongly recommended in particular if your son/daughter is behind targets or has any E4 grades, or is in Y11 or Y10 approaching GCSE examinations.

In brief, the report gives you:

<u>Effort</u>	E1/E2	Outstanding/good effort – star student
	E3	Positive effort – doing most of what we expect
	E4 E5, E6	Cause for concern – may have received a C4 department detention Serious cause for concern
<u>Target</u>	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. Targets are based on how students of a similar ability perform nationally in the top 5% of similar schools.	
<u>Prediction</u>	This is a GCSE grade which each teacher predicts your son/daughter will attain at the end of Year 10 or Year 11 based on their current performance and the teacher's professional judgment. If a student is studying a BTEC qualification, this will appear as: Distinction* equivalent to an A*, Distinction equivalent to an A, Merit equivalent to a B, Pass equivalent to a C, W is working towards a pass and U is a Fail	
<u>Homework/Coursework</u>	This indicates, where marked, that the teacher has a coursework concern (C) or a homework concern (H) or both (HC).	
<u>Attendance</u>	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 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.

Parents' Evening 3 will be held on **Thursday 27 April 2017 5pm – 7pm**. Teachers may request that you come in to discuss your son/daughters' progress and this is indicated in the report. They may also telephone. If you are not invited in and would still like to see a teacher, please contact them via the use of the Planner parents' appointment grid or alternatively ring school and leave a message that will be passed on. It is very important that you strongly encourage your child to make appointments on **Page 177** of their planner. To ensure we know that you have received this report, I would be grateful if you could complete the section attached and return it to your child's VMG tutor straight after half-term if possible. This will avoid unnecessary phone calls and/or letter home to check you have received this report. Feel free to write any additional comments at the foot of the slip.

Yours faithfully



Seana Rice
Vice Principal



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Dear VMG tutor

I am the parent / carer of: _____ VMG: _____

I confirm that I have received and read his/her Praising Stars© 4. report.

Name (Parent): _____

Signed (Parent): _____

Date: _____

Please return this slip to your child's VMG tutor as soon as possible. Thank you.

Any additional comments:

7 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Praising Stars® Reporting and the New GCSE Examination Grades

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>

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 'Ebacc' 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?

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 9-1, 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 10?

The changes to your child's grades will affect English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and French which they will sit in 2018. These will be based on the numeric grades 9-1 and all other subjects will be based on the traditional grades A*-G. The other options your child is studying will be examined in 2017 and will mostly 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 9?

The changes to your child's grades will affect English, Maths, Science and the Ebacc subjects of Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Computer Science, Art, Drama, Engineering, Food and Nutrition ICT, Music, and PE which they will sit in 2018. These will be based on the numeric grades 9-1 and all other subjects will be the traditional Grades A*-G. Praising Stars® reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2018 and 2019.

How does this affect my child in Year 7 & 8?

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

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.