

November 2016

INFORMATION REGARDING YEAR 7 LEARNING CYCLE REPORTS

Dear Parent

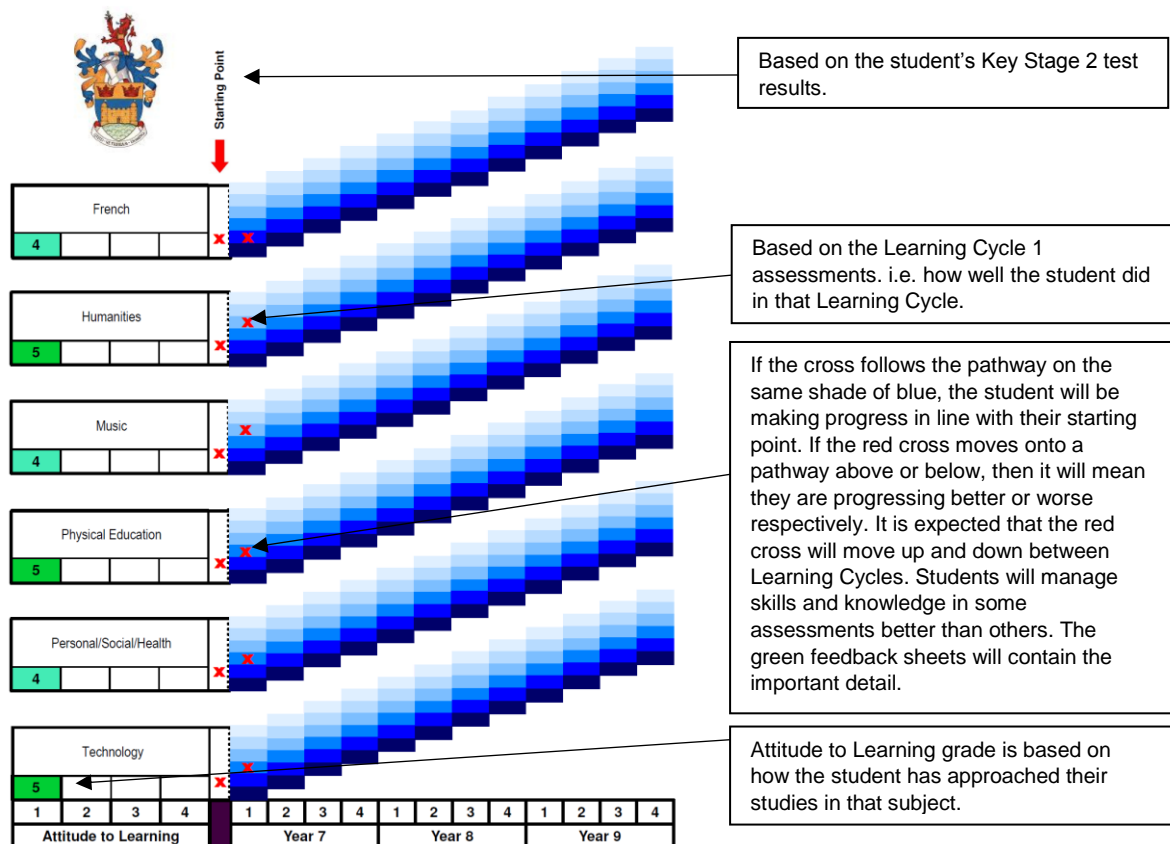
As you will be aware from Year 6, the old National Curriculum levels no longer exist. King James's has embraced this and began developing a new strategy for supporting students' academic progress last academic year. This strategy is now in place for Year 7 and Year 8. The information below is intended as a concise guide to interpreting our new Learning Cycle reports.

Understanding how your child is doing

The first assessment period of the year, Learning Cycle 1, is now complete. In lessons, the students will be receiving feedback from their teachers regarding their work so far. In their books or folders there will be marked and assessed work. That work may have a numerical mark e.g. a percentage, but it will not have a National Curriculum level or similar. Instead there will be green "feedback sheets", where the staff indicate what skills and knowledge were strong and specific areas to work on in the future. The students will then use this information to identify areas for improvement and celebrate areas of success. *The feedback from staff, given in books and verbally, is the main way of understanding how your child is progressing.*

What does the coloured report show?

By using each student's Key Stage 2 test scores, we have generated an academic starting point. This starting point has provided teaching staff with an idea of each student's academic development on entering secondary school. We have then taken the feedback information from Learning Cycle 1 assessments and made a comparison. To provide a simple visual summary, we have created the report that is contained in your child's planner.



What is the Attitude to Learning grade?



Attitude to Learning refers to the endeavour the student displays in the classroom. It is related to how they approach their studies and their engagement with the subject. Each grade relates to characteristics a student might display in their lessons. The higher the number the more developed the study characteristics are. A larger version of this is contained in the student's planner.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why doesn't my daughter/son have a red cross for the end of primary school assessment?

A: This means we do not have any Key Stage assessment information. This may be because: your child was at primary school outside of England, attended an independent school, or did not complete Key Stage 2 assessments due to special educational or health needs.

Q: Why has my daughter/son got one or more cross missing from their Learning Cycle information?

A: This means we do not have a recent assessment in that subject(s). This may be because the student has had significant illness coinciding with that subject. If you require information concerning the subject please refer to the student's book or folder. For further information, please contact the class teacher.

Q: My daughter/son is in the study support group and, therefore, does not have a cross for all subjects. How do I get more information about progress?

A: The Learning Support department will be providing more appropriate feedback reports to you.

Q: The Learning Cycle cross seems very low for some subjects. Should I be worried?

A: A secondary school curriculum is very different to primary school. There are a number of subjects where the students may have had limited experience (e.g. French) or may not have been taught it as a discrete subject before (e.g. Art, Humanities). Please refer to the Attitude to Learning grade. If that is positive, there is nothing to be concerned about at this early stage. If you do have concerns, please refer to the feedback sheets in the book or folder.

S Giles

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