

## **Year 10 and 11 Learning Cycle Review Guidance**

### **Learning Cycles:**

The school calendar is based around 4 learning cycles (which last roughly 9 weeks each). During each learning cycle one formal learning assessment will be completed per subject. Key assessments take place once per learning cycle. Learning assignments can take many forms, but they do focus on the key areas of work covered in the learning cycle.

Teachers give students written feedback to help them improve and this information is used to report home together with an attitude to learning grade.

### **Attitude to Learning:**

Attitude to learning tells you about key aspects of your child's effort such as initiative, resilience, asking questions, motivation, reflection and engagement. The teacher considers your child's attitude and conduct related to these areas and gives a 'best fit' attitude to learning grade with 6 being the highest and 1 the lowest. No individual aspect of attitude to learning is treated as an overall limit to the grade issued. Attitude to learning is colour coded to aid interpretation. It is important to remember that it is meant to be difficult to achieve the highest grade.

#### *Initiative:*

Students who use their initiative well act and learn correctly without being prompted and show enterprise.

#### *Resilience:*

Resilient students tend not to give up easily – particularly when tasks and activities are challenging.

#### *Asking questions:*

This is an easy area to misinterpret. Students learn better if they ask questions of themselves and explore new ideas in their learning.

#### *Motivation:*

Motivated students actively seek challenge and work diligently.

#### *Reflection:*

Reflective students learn from their mistakes and strive to improve.

#### *Engagement:*

Engaged students take a full part in activities, listen well to others and show an interest in their tasks and activities.

## **Forecasts**

These are the grade that the subject teacher thinks your child will achieve at the end of Key Stage 4. There is a section on the review that shows forecasts from previous cycles. This allows you to see how the forecasts have changed during the year. You can compare the forecasts to the targets to see how your child is progressing.

## **Targets**

The new GCSEs that are being introduced, graded 9-1, mean that the statistics that were used to generate minimum target grades are less useful. The targets that we are using are generated by FFT Aspire software. FFT are the organisation that provides the DfE and Ofsted with their data regarding school performance. We have provided one target which is designed to be achievable, but to also provide challenge. The targets can vary between subjects.

## **Written Comments**

Written comments to help students improve their understanding are recorded on 'learning logs' which can be found next to the work, in exercise books or in planners. We've set things up this way so students can refer to helpful feedback in class. In the summer term a learning cycle review will contain a written comment from form tutors.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

Q: Some subjects don't use grades from A\* to U. Why is that?

A: Some subjects have a different grade system to GCSEs. An example would be BTECs where the grade system is Distinction\*, Merit, Pass and Fail. You can find further information about these subjects in the options booklet.

Q: Some subjects use grades 9-1; some use A\* - G. Why?

A: Not every subject syllabus has been up-dated by the exam boards. The whole process will take three years. From September 2017, all GCSEs should be using the new 9-1 grades.