

## FAQs – Year 7 Learning Cycle Review



Q: What is a 'learning cycle?'

A: The school calendar is based around 5 learning cycles (which last 7 weeks each). During each learning cycle 1 formal learning assignment will be completed per subject.

Q: What is a 'learning assignment?'

A: Key assessments that take place once per learning cycle. Teachers give students written feedback to help them improve and students also write a comment evaluating their performance in the assignment. Learning assignments are not usually tests but they do focus on some of the key areas of work covered in the learning cycle.

Q: What does 'attitude to learning' cover?

A: This tells you about your child's effort with work (including home work), organisation and any issues relating to behaviour. Aspects that impact learning have been grouped together in this way to keep the learning cycle review simple.

Q: How often will my child get a learning cycle review?

A: Learning cycle reviews will come home once every 7 weeks – at the end of each learning cycle. During this period of time feedback will have been added to the learning logs at the front of students' exercise books. This means that both students and parents receive feedback very soon after key pieces of work.

Q: What is a teacher forecast?

A: It is the level that the subject teacher thinks your child will achieve at the end of Key Stage 3.

Q: Are there any written comments?

A: Written comments to help students improve their understanding are recorded on 'learning logs' at the front of all subject exercise books (except with DT and IT which have pages in the planner). We've set things up this way so students can refer to helpful feedback in class (instead of on a review located at home).

The summer term learning cycle review will contain a written comment from form tutors.

Q: Why are so many columns empty?!

Information about target and forecast levels will be introduced later in the year. Most of the review grid is blank as it will be populated as each learning cycle happens. This will enable you to see any changes from cycle to learning cycle.

Q: Why is the attainment level for Languages lower than the other subjects?

A: Most of our current students did not study Languages in detail until arriving at KJS and consequently they start from a lower level. By the end of year 9 attainment levels should be comparable to the other subjects.

Q: Why are there grades missing for Technology, Food Technology or Textiles?

A: Technology is taught by three different teachers. Only one of the teachers gives formal feedback on a learning assignment each learning cycle.

Q: How can I help my child?

A: Parents obviously play a pivotal role in the achievements of their children at school (and in life generally!). Simple ways to place value on your child's education include: checking their planner, talking about what is happening at school and attending parents' evenings. More specifically we would ask you to help maximise the value of the comments in the learning logs by discussing them with your child.

[www.king-james.co.uk](http://www.king-james.co.uk) is a mine of useful links and resources – encourage your child to get the most out of it. As a specialist Technology College pioneering e-learning will continue to be a priority for us! Watch this space.

For further information you may wish to view a copy of the KJS marking policy on the school website ([www.king-james.co.uk](http://www.king-james.co.uk) → 'Parents' → 'Policies').