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Headteacher Dr Roger Harris

To: Parent/Carers – Year 10 Students

12 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Academic Reports on MCAS – 15 December 2023

As you may be aware, we will be publishing our first tracking point for all students on Friday 15 December 2023.

We report current attainment in Year 10 and Year 11, in addition to indicating whether there are any causes for concern in terms of your child/wards attitude to learning. This move to ‘current attainment’ may lead to some reporting that it initially looks unusual or unexpected, so I thought it would be helpful for me to write and explain this to you.

Firstly, you will note that students have been issued a ‘target grade’ for each subject. This is the lowest grade that they should be aiming to achieve in their final exams at the end of Year 11. This is not an indicator of their current attainment level. Until we receive further guidance from the Department for Education, this is an internally generated target.

The current attainment grade indicates the grade that our assessments suggest that your child/ward would achieve if they were to sit their final exams now.

For some subjects; for example, Mathematics, learning is very knowledge-based and will increase over time and it is likely that the grades reported for your child/ward will be significantly lower than their target grade. This is not a cause for concern because over the next five terms you should see this steadily increasing towards their target grade.

For other more skills-based subjects; for example, English Language and Philosophy and Ethics, it is possible that your child/ward may already be achieving their target grade, so for these subjects you should look to see that they, at least, maintain this level of attainment over the next five terms.

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Other subjects, such as Science, whereby they have only been taught and assessed on a proportion of the syllabus, and although your child/ward may have achieved well in the associated assessment, because they have not covered the full course content, it would be inaccurate to suggest they had reached their target grade. It is therefore normal for students to be achieving a grade one or two at this point. For an indication of how your child/ward achieved in the topics they have studied, you can check their recent assessments which includes a 'current working' grade, based solely on the topics they have studied and not the whole examinable content.

For these reasons, it is difficult to report on different subjects using a single reporting system, so I would urge caution when it comes to comparing attainment in different subjects. It would be unsurprising to see some variety in grades between subjects at this stage, but we would hope this variety will reduce over time. If there are concerns, you will be contacted by your child/wards class teacher, or you will be able to see these in the 'attitude to learning' indicator. Therefore, I would encourage you to view these attainment grades as a 'starting point' from which to monitor progress over the next five terms.

As ever, teachers will be able to give you a more detailed analysis of performance at Parents evening later in the academic year.

If you have specific concerns regarding progress in any subjects, please do not hesitate to contact your child/wards teacher for further information.

Yours faithfully



Mr G Yassin
Deputy Headteacher