



20 October 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Assessment & Reporting Academic Year 2023-2024

The intention of this letter is to inform you about our strategy for the provision of assessment and reporting grades to parents and students. At Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) and Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) we track pupils using a uniform approach of GCSE numbered grades across all five years. Each pupil is assigned a '**Flight Path Grade**' for each of their subjects.

The Flight Path Grade is the grade which, if a pupil makes their expected progress, they should achieve in assessments at the end of the year (in Years 7, 8 and 9) or in their GCSEs at the end of Key Stage 4. Flight Paths will be based upon the exams and assessments that pupils have undertaken in previous academic years, along with baseline assessments at the start of Year 7. We will also consider each pupil's individual ability and will set the Flight Paths accordingly so that they are suitably challenging.

For example, a Year 7 pupil who has been assessed as having good potential to achieve GCSE Grade 7 in a certain subject, would be assigned Year 7 Flight Path 7. If that pupil progressed at a rate that would be expected of most pupils at our school, they would be expected to follow that Flight Path from Year 7, into Year 8 and 9 then all the way through to GCSE in Year 11.

We expect every pupil to make progress at their own individual rate, and we believe that there is no ceiling on each pupil's potential attainment; thus, pupils' initial Flight Paths are certainly **not fixed**. We will also encourage all pupils to identify the requirements to move up to the higher Flight Path Grade, and aim to make the extra progress needed to do so. Pupils therefore may well have some movement in their Flight Paths in some subject areas between academic years.

During this term, pupils will begin to get their Flight Path Grades communicated to them during lessons and with their form tutors. At Assessment Points, parents and pupils will be informed about the Flight Path grade for each subject and this may be accompanied with one or both of these other grades:

Current Attainment: the grade that a pupil is actually working at based on a range of current work.

Key Stage Prediction: the grade that a pupil is likely to achieve at the end of the Key Stage based on Current Attainment.

Key Stage Predictions will be reported using '**fine grades**' as detailed below:

Symbol	Explanation	Example
Developing = Minus [-]	Used when a pupil is working towards meeting the descriptors for their Flight Path Grade in a subject	7-
Competent = Whole grade	Used when a pupil is meeting all the descriptors for their Flight Path Grade in a subject	7
Confident = Plus [+]	Used when a pupil is exceeding some of the descriptors for their Flight Path Grade in a subject	7+

To make these judgements, and to help guide pupils towards the skills that are required for the higher Flight Paths, pupils will be informed about the knowledge that they need to develop to achieve these grades. This will be based upon GCSE specifications, and take into account knowledge that can realistically be developed throughout the five years. Teachers will be using assessments that will be standardised and matched to GCSE criteria to ensure the process is reliable.

For example, in the Autumn Term, a pupil on a Year 8 Flight Path Grade 7 for a subject might be given Current Attainment Grade 6 and a Key Stage Prediction of 7-. This means that the pupil has recently been working according to Year 8 Grade 6 criteria and is working towards meeting their assigned Flight Path Grade 7 at the end of the Key Stage. The pupil will need to develop in some areas to be competent in gaining Grade 7 in assessments at the end of Key Stage 3 and subsequently at GCSE too.

We hope that by setting pupils on a Flight Path for up to five years, they will experience a smooth transition between Key Stages, and that they will understand how the learning that they do in Key Stage 3 will eventually help them to be successful at GCSE. The Flight Paths that have been determined by each subject area for your son or daughter will be formally communicated later this term.

If you have any further questions, please contact me on rhodes.d@kings.peterborough.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Rhodes', written in a cursive style.

Mr D Rhodes
Deputy Headteacher (Academic)