

Our Ref: KRO/359.LCO

4th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to explain a change that we are making to the Progress Check that you were expecting to receive today.

You will still receive a report, but we have made the decision that this will be an effort check and that Professional Predicted Grades will not be included. There are a number of reasons for this:

- At this stage, as we are about to head into the PREs, we will soon have much more up-to-date information to use to make predictions. This means that following these PREs, we will be able to produce much more accurate and appropriate predictions.
- The major piece of evidence which we have available to us at the moment to gauge any predictions on, are the Yr 10 PREs. There was a huge amount of support and preparation which went into getting students ready for those PREs (because of the missed schooling due to Covid) and so those PRE results are probably not the best indication as to what grade a student might gain when they sit exams next summer.
- At this stage, knowing how much effort your child is applying to their studies is probably the single most important piece of information that you could have. If these effort grades are low or still leave room for improvement, then knowing this will give you the information needed to 'encourage' your child to do more work for their PREs.

At the moment the government's plans are still that exams will go ahead next year, but that schools should be preparing for Plan B which is for Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) to be used. With that in mind, I have informed the year group that if we do have to use TAGs again, then the results from these PREs would be part of the evidence that we would use to determine those TAGs.

Whilst these PREs are undoubtedly important, as I said to students today, they are not everything! We want our students to keep things in perspective and it is a shared responsibility to keep a watchful eye over them and their well-being. If you have any concerns that your child is struggling to cope, heaping too much pressure upon themselves or finding matters stressful, then please let us know or encourage them to speak to us – we can help.

I would also like to take this opportunity to let you know that the next Tripod Evening for Yr 11 parents is on the 13th of January. There will also be a Yr 11 GCSE Support Evening for parents during which we will share vital information on what lies ahead for Yr 11 students, suggestions on where resources can be found to help you in supporting your child and how to help them to revise and get organised. I am just finalising the arrangements for this and will email you with the details in the coming weeks.

Effort

This will give you an idea of how hard your child is working. I cannot over-emphasise just how important it is that students continue to put in as much effort as they can with their studies. We have one final push before the 28th May and students will need to do as well as they can in the next round of testing which begins on the 17th May.

Effort	Description
1	Very little effort shown in lessons. Regularly off-task. Behaviour may disrupt own and others learning. Shows very little motivation. Very poor attitude to learning
2	Some effort is shown in lessons, but this is inconsistent and there is behaviour that sometimes disrupts own or others learning. A better attitude to learning is required.
3	Appropriate effort is being shown in lessons. Behaviour is positive and motivation and attitude to learning is at an acceptable level.
4	Good effort, behaviour, motivation and attitude are shown in lessons.
5	Excellent effort in every lesson. Strives to carry out tasks to the very best of their ability. Excellent behaviour, motivation and attitude to learning.

Kind regards

K. Rourke-Beasley

Mr K. Rourke-Beasley
 Deputy Headteacher