

Year 8 Parent Notes

Summative assessments have begun this week in most subjects. Those subjects who are doing assessments have been asked to only set homework that is revision-based for this week and next week. Students may receive homework from other subjects who are not doing assessments during this period.

This week Mr O'Flynn Deputy Headteacher took our assembly. Mr O'Flynn reminded the students what a flight path grade (FPG) is and of the recent changes in our grade descriptors for attitude to learning (ATL)

Students were reminded that a FPG is what teachers expect them to achieve at GCSE if they continue to work at the standard and rate that they currently are in the subject. Although FPGs can go up or down, they generally stay the same throughout the students school life as it gets 'harder' to achieve the grade as the students progresses through the school years. For example, if a student is working their maximum and achieving a grade 6 in Maths in Year 7, it is likely that they will be a grade 6 in Year 8, if they are still working as hard because the grade 6 has got increasingly harder to achieve between Year 7 and Year 8.

Students can go up if they work very hard in the subject, and indeed down if their attainment waivers, although most students will achieve similar FPGs throughout their school life. This is a good thing! It means that they are consistently working as hard as they can to maintain their grade.

Attitude to learning descriptors (ATLs) have changed slightly. As a school, we want the students to aim high and we want our expectations of them to reflect this. As such, the language has changed on the descriptors.

It makes it more of a challenge to achieve a grade 1 (best attitude to learning score) and grade 2. As such, some students may find that they have achieved ATLs of a 3 in some subjects when they had ATLs of a 2 in the last reporting session. We would urge you to read the language of the level 3 descriptor carefully to evaluate where your child can improve in the subject if they find themselves with a 3.

A copy of the Grade Descriptions can be found under the Year 8 section of the school bulletin.

If you have any questions about and of the above, please feel free to email Miss Wheeler or you are welcome to discuss this with either of us at the Year 8 Progress Review evening on Thursday 8 March.

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