

November 2017

Dear Parent

This letter should reach you together with a report sheet as part of the Associated Sixth Form assessment and reporting system. This shows the latest information about your son's or daughter's projected grades, as submitted by subject teachers. On the reverse of this letter is an explanation of the effort grade criteria which have been applied in this report. The aim is to provide the most up to date information about performance so that parents and students can discuss progress and explore strategies for improvement. In particular, we are aware of the competition for all post-sixth form progression routes and hope that students will focus attention on important A Level work, possibly including coursework, which may occur early in the Spring Term. We are collating an outline of assessment schedules for each course and this will be available soon on the schools' websites. A more detailed report from all subject teachers including feedback on the December mock examinations will be issued in February.

Also enclosed is a Student Attendance Report covering the period from 18 September to 17 November 2017. You will be aware from the Sixth Form Attendance Policy that we are monitoring attendance closely. Absences which have been reported already will have been coded appropriately but if there are any "N" codes on your son's/daughter's Attendance Report the reasons for which you are aware of, please confirm this in writing on the closed Reply Slip.

May we also take this opportunity to remind parents and students of the expectations regarding dress code in the Associated Sixth Form: in particular, students should wear trousers, not jeans or jeggings; dark formal shoes rather than trainers; casual, branded sweatshirts and tee-shirts should not be worn; and hoodies may be worn as coats, but must be removed in lessons. The Headteachers and Governors have requested a rigorous enforcement of the dress code and we would be grateful for all students' co-operation.

We hope that you find this interim report helpful and thank you for your support in helping us to encourage your son or daughter through the demands of A Level study.

Finally, we would be grateful if you could read the following information, which is taken from our Admissions Policy 2018. We feel it is important that parents and students are aware of the potential implications of under-performance at A Level and therefore of the need for students to take every opportunity to attain the best possible grades in the summer.

Exceptional Circumstances

The Associated Sixth Form only offers a third year of study to students in exceptional circumstances. This is defined as a situation where a student's health or personal circumstances have affected his or her ability to complete the courses in two years, in which case a third year may be negotiated. Any student wishing to enquire about a Year 14 option should be aware that it is not possible for students to simply retake all previous courses: this often proves demotivating to students and does not meet funding regulations. Where students do not meet these criteria but wish to continue their studies, the pastoral team within the Associated Sixth Form will support them in accessing alternative provision.

Yours faithfully,

C I Kidman
Head of Sixth Form, St Aidan's

Mrs A Joy
Head of Sixth Form, St John Fisher

Effort Descriptors for 2017/2018 Sixth Form Reporting

Outstanding	Student is extremely motivated and focused throughout all lessons. Homework is always completed to a very high standard. Deadlines are always met. Student enjoys contributing fully to class activities and welcomes challenge. Student can work independently and is making expected or above expected progress.
Very Good	Student is motivated and focused in lessons. Homework is completed to a high standard and deadlines are met. Student contributes to all class activities. Student can work independently on most tasks and is making expected or above expected progress.
Good	Student is motivated and focused in the majority of lessons. Homework is completed on time to the required standard. Student contributes to class activities. Student can work independently at times but on occasions requires guidance. The student is making expected progress.
Some Concerns	Student can lack motivation at times including being passive. They often require guidance and encouragement to remain on task. Homework can be incomplete and deadlines are not always met. Student can fail to engage with class activities. Student is making less than expected progress.
Serious Concerns	Student lacks motivation and focus in the majority of lessons. Homework is rarely completed and deadlines frequently missed. Student seldom involves themselves in class activities. Student often does not complete work and is making less than expected progress.

Teachers have been asked to apply the Effort Descriptor which is most appropriate for a student, even if the student does not meet all of the criteria in a given category.