



HITCHIN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr J. E. Crowther

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Dear Parent/Carer

At this early stage of the year, we would like to explain how student progress is going to be recorded and reported for your child in Key Stage 3 for the next academic year.

How do I know that my child is making progress?

From September 2023, students at Hitchin Girls' School in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have their academic progress assessed and reported against the school's curriculum using a new approach. This new strategy will:

- Enable parents and carers to have a clearer understanding of the progress their student is making across all subjects.
- Communicate the achievement of the child in simple, easy to understand language.
- Be consistent across all subjects and all years in Key Stage 3.
- Allow for easy integration of a newly updated curriculum area on the school website and Go4Schools (G4S) online platform.
- Allow staff, parents and students to identify areas of strength and areas of improvement against our broad and challenging curriculum offer.
- Allow staff to provide high-quality specific feedback that focuses on the learning-driven goals of the student, rather than grade-driven objectives.
- Ensure students' progress is aspirational, and is monitored carefully and appropriately, thereby supporting students ahead of Key Stage 4 and beyond

In accordance with the evolving educational landscape, the government no longer provides National Curriculum levels.

Therefore, working with other schools and in reading recent pedagogical research, we have adopted a new approach to assess your child's progress and attainment in a more informative and meaningful way. We have established four progress **bands** in each subject to gauge your child's understanding of the curriculum:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Excelling | Demonstrates performance well-above expected levels. |
| Advancing | Demonstrates assured understanding and higher-level performance. |



| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Secure | Demonstrates a firm grasp of the curriculum. |
| Developing | Demonstrates some progress towards a firm grasp of the curriculum. |

NB: If there is insufficient evidence of any notable progress made towards meeting the curriculum, your child will be awarded the band **"Not Yet"**. Awarding of this band may be accompanied by further intervention to ensure your child is able to make progress towards meeting the curriculum.

To ensure consistency, we have provided descriptions of typical student progress within each band for each subject. These descriptions will shortly be published on the Hitchin Girls' School website in a newly designated curriculum area and we will be writing to you again to confirm when this is live in the coming weeks. This information will offer a comprehensive overview of progress expectations in each subject area.

This new assessment and reporting strategy aligns with our commitment to provide further clarity and transparency around our curriculum and was designed following feedback last year that parents felt they would like more information on how their child was progressing. It is closely tied to the teaching and learning experience we provide, setting high expectations and fostering challenge for all. It recognises and celebrates those who meet or exceed expectations, while also identifying and supporting those who may need additional assistance.

We believe that together with our new curriculum website area, this strategy will offer a clear roadmap of your child's educational journey at Hitchin Girls' School. It not only communicates the content and skills covered at each stage but also maintains consistent language in reflecting your child's progress in each subject and we look forward to sharing more information with you on this in the coming weeks.

If you would like more information, Mr Derrett has provided a detailed explanation via a 10 minute video found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHr3P5ztTFs>

How can I access this information?

The curriculum area on our website will shortly be updated to include a visual representation of each subject's curriculum along with clear descriptions of what is expected at each band. Staff will support students with ensuring they understand fully how they progress to the next band. We anticipate launching the new curriculum pages by early October in line with the first assessments being shared.

From October 2023, Go4Schools will now share all progress data immediately as staff enter it. This is updated every 24 hours, meaning you will be able to see the outcomes and subsequent banding of each assessment your child undertakes.

In addition to this and following parent/carer feedback, you are also now able to access Go4Schools via the designed app downloadable from iOS App Store or Google Play. Your login details will remain the same as the web portal. If you have forgotten your Go4Schools password please click the forgotten password button or contact exams@hgs.herts.sch.uk for further support.

When will I receive my child's report?

As Go4Schools will now include all attainment daily, we will now only report on your child's engagement with learning in each subject along with areas for celebration and development.

| | Initial Engagement with Learning Report | Engagement with Learning plus Tutor Comment |
|----|---|---|
| Y7 | wc 13/11/23 | wc 10/07/24 |
| Y8 | wc 18/12/23 | wc 10/07/24 |
| Y9 | wc 27/11/23 | wc 10/07/24 |

We would encourage all parents/carers to regularly login to Go4Schools to monitor attendance, behaviour for learning, rewards and, from October 2023, progress information throughout the year.

When reporting engagement with learning we will use the following descriptors

- 1* - Your engagement with learning is **consistently exceptional**
- 1 - Your engagement with learning is **consistently above** expectations.
- 2 - Your engagement with learning **consistently meets** expectations
- 3 - Your engagement with learning **occasionally does not meet** expectations
- 4 - Your engagement with learning **frequently does not meet** expectations
- 5 - Your engagement with learning **consistently does not meet** expectations

The expectation should be that your child is at least consistently meeting expectations for engagement for learning (2).

How can I regularly check my child is engaging with their learning?

Please regularly check Go4Schools, as highlighted above, via the web portal or app.

From September 2023, and in line with our new Behaviour for Learning policy, 2023, students that meet our expectations in each lesson will be awarded an R1 EWL. This will be reported daily on Go4Schools so you can log in to access their rewards or see any consequences that may have been applied where behaviour for learning was not as expected. This is updated daily.

How frequently will my child be assessed?

In class, assessments will take place throughout the year, once marked and moderated, the outcomes of these assessments will be updated every 24 hours on Go4Schools. Please regularly login to check your child's progress.

In addition to in class assessments, we utilise a suite of external assessments for KS3 that provide invaluable baselines in English, Maths and Science. We will update you further on these in the Summer term.

If your child is in Year 8 or 9 or you have older children in the school, you may also remember that we now use a nationally standardised baseline test for reading called the NGRT test. These are a short, dynamic assessment conducted on student chromebooks that will take place again this year on Tuesday, 19 September during form time.

The purpose of these tests is to gather information on your child's comprehension of short amounts of text and identify where our staff may need to provide further support in order to help them access their curriculum. We will share the outcomes of these tests separately with you later this term.

It is not possible to revise for these tests and, as they are dynamic in nature, they are different for each pupil. Where applicable, access arrangements will be applied in line with the recommendations of our learning support department.

When are the parent's consultation evenings?

Parents' evenings are conducted virtually using SchoolCloud software. Following significant feedback from staff, parents and carers in the Summer term, the outcome was overwhelmingly positive to remain virtual and not return to physical appointments. It was also preferred by parents/carers that a single, longer evening was preferred to two shorter evenings in the same week. Further information will be provided closer to the time on how to access and make appointments, but please put the below dates in your diary.

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 13/03/24 | 02/05/24 | 28/11/23 |

I trust this information is useful and look forward to writing to you again soon with more information as the first assessments and reports are shared, along with the updated curriculum area of our website. Please do not hesitate to contact admin@hgs.herts.sch.uk if you have any specific questions relating to your child's progress or engagement with learning.

Yours sincerely

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