



# HITCHIN GIRLS' SCHOOL

Highbury Road, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 9RS

01462 621300

admin@hgs.herts.sch.uk

www.hgs.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J. E. Crowther

Ref: 020

15 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope your child has settled into their first few weeks of GCSE learning. As part of our ongoing commitment to ensure the high quality assessment of your child's learning and progress, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our reporting procedure to parents and how we use targets, along with detailing some changes to how we report Behaviour for Learning.

## **How do I know what my child is studying?**

The curriculum area on our website will shortly be updated to include a visual representation of each subject's curriculum along with links to key GCSE information such as exam board specifications. Parent/Carer feedback last year noted that one area where we could improve our practices was around signposting what was being studied and how your child could progress, hence the changes to this area of our website.

From October 2023, Go4Schools will also 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 grading of each assessment your child undertakes.

In addition to this and following parent/carers feedback, you are also now able to access Go4Schools via the designated 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](mailto:exams@hgs.herts.sch.uk) for further support.

## **How are my child's targets determined at GCSE?**

Hitchin Girls' School uses Fisher Family Trust data to set targets at GCSE. This widely used, national model allows us to set aspirational yet achievable targets that are based on a large range of national data.

Your child's KS2 SATs scores are used to plot how prior students with similar SATs scores went on to achieve at GCSE. This plots a minimum expectation often referred to by the Department for Education as their Attainment 8 estimate. At HGS, we believe it is essential to set aspirational targets for our pupils, so we use a system that allows us to plot which grades our pupils would need to achieve to meet the top 20% of pupils nationally. This is then generated as their GCSE target for each subject. This data is visible on Go4Schools for each subject now at Year 11 should you wish to see your child's target grades.



As Year 10 students did not sit SAT tests due to the pandemic, we are currently working with FFT to use Cognitive Ability Test outcomes taken in Year 9 to map likely performance at GCSE and subject targets in line with those detailed above.

We should stress that these targets at Year 10 and 11 are solely based on prior attainment data and do not reflect the limit of our expectations for your child. We have had numerous examples of pupils each year which have far exceeded their expectations at GCSE and their performance bears no resemblance to the targets that were set. We would implore you to have the same high expectations that we have of your child to help support them reach their potential at GCSE.

### **My child is not meeting their target grade, what will happen?**

As identified above, the target grades are a statistical indication and not representative of how individuals will necessarily perform. In addition to this, it is important to stress that progress is not linear and different subjects may follow different flight paths. It is not uncommon for students to be under target throughout their GCSE journey, but if you are concerned please contact your child's teacher for a further discussion.

If we believe your child is consistently working under expected levels, we may invite them to one of new Thrive and Fly intervention programmes which Mrs Cooper will be sharing more details of in our Information Evenings.

### **When will I receive my child's report?**

As Go4Schools will now update 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
Y10	wc 09/10/23	wc 27/05/24 + mock outcome
Y11	wc 06/12/23 + mock outcome	wc 25/03/24 + mock outcome

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. Mock outcomes will be hidden from parents/carers until an official release date which will be shared closer to the time.

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 this year on Tuesday, 19 September during form time for students in Years 7 - 10.

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 evening?**

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 10	Year 11
06/06/24	05/12/23

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 launch of the newly updated curriculum area of our website. Please do not hesitate to contact [admin@hgs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@hgs.herts.sch.uk) if you have any specific questions relating to your child's progress or engagement with learning.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Jones  
Deputy Headteacher