



# HITCHIN GIRLS' SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr J. E. Crowther

Ref: 027

21 September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope your child has settled into their first few weeks of Sixth Form 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 links to key information such as exam board specifications and assessment criteria. 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/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](mailto:exams@hgs.herts.sch.uk) for further support.

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

Hitchin Girls' School uses Department for Education Level 3 Value Added data generated by ALPS to set targets at Key Stage 5. 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 GCSE scores are used to generate an Average Points Score (APS) which is then used to plot how prior students with similar GCSE scores went on to achieve at Key Stage 5 in the subjects that your child has chosen. This plots a minimum expectation often referred to by the Department for Education as L3VA. Year 13 targets are available immediately on Go4Schools while Year 12 targets will follow shortly.



We should stress that these targets are based on GCSE outcomes only 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 KS5 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 KS5.

### **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 Sixth Form 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 our Sixth Form team will be in contact to discuss how we can support your child to meet their required outcomes.

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

In line with the Hitchin Sixth Form Consortium, you will receive reports updating you on your child's progress and attitude to learning in October, December, March and July for Year 12 and October, February and March for Year 13.

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 attitude to learning we will use the following descriptors

- 1\* - Your attitude to learning is **exceptional**
- 1 - Your attitude to learning is **excellent**
- 2 - Your attitude to learning is **good**
- 3 - Your attitude to learning is **inconsistent**
- 4 - Your attitude to learning **requires improvement**
- 5 - Your engagement with learning is **unacceptable**

The expectation should be that your child is *at least* consistently meeting expectations for attitude to 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.

### **When are the parents' 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 12	Year 13
27/02/24	09/11/23

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](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



Miss T Stojko  
Director of Sixth Form