Ref: 057

6 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers;

We hope this letter finds you well. We are excited to inform you that the Go4Schools online platform and app are now accessible for both parents and students. These resources offer valuable insights into your child's progress at Hitchin Girls' School and are designed to improve our communication with you regarding their studies.

How can I see the progress being made by my child?

To access the Go4Schools website and app, you can use the same login credentials as you have been using; we encourage you to log in and explore the features available to you. For a quick start, we have provided a Parent Guide to the app, which can be found at the following link: https://support.go4schools.com/support/solutions/articles/80000954282-parent-go-4-schools-mobile-app-quick-start-guide

Additionally, there is a Student Guide available for your child, which can be accessed here: https://www.go4schools.com/mobileappstudentguide

Soon, data about your child's performance will become visible on the **progress** tab. Here, both parents and students will be able to view assessment data for each subject. This information will be updated as our staff input data from each department, allowing you to monitor the progress your child is making throughout the academic year.

How is progress measured for each subject?

Our new assessment system for KS3 this year means that in each subject, your child will be awarded one of the following four **bands**:

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 our curriculum.*

An example of what the progress tab will begin to look like is attached below:

	Progress summary	View subject in detail ▾

Progress
Summary

◉ Subject name ○ Grade value

Ac/Dr/Lt/S...	Art & Design	Computing	English	French	Geography	History	Maths	Music	PE	Philosophy ...	Science	Technology
-	-	-	Secure	Advancing	Secure	Developi...	Secure	-	Excelling	-	Advancing	-

What do the bands ("Developing, Secure, Advancing, Excelling") mean in practice?

We have introduced a new section on the school website that provides assessment criteria for each subject in Years 7, 8, 9. This section allows you to gain a more in-depth understanding of what each awarded level means in terms of your child's knowledge and skill development and how it aligns with our curriculum objectives. It also offers suggestions for improvement and how to progress to the next level.

An example from Year 7 Geography is attached below:

Year 7 Geography - Curriculum Overview and KS3 Progress Descriptors 2023/24

Developing	Secure	Advancing	Excelling
• I have an emerging knowledge and understanding of geographical issues and relationships between people and the environment. • I have an emerging knowledge and understanding of physical and human geographical processes. • I show emerging skills of evaluation. • I have a basic range of geographical skills.	• I have a clear knowledge and understanding of geographical issues and relationships between people and the environment. • I have a clear knowledge and understanding of physical and human geographical processes, and can recognise the interrelationships between them. • I am beginning to recognise how things change over time. • I can make clear evaluations. • I am competent using a range of geographical skills.	• I have detailed knowledge and understanding of geographical issues and relationships between people and the environment. • I have a detailed knowledge and understanding of physical and human geographical processes, and can confidently recognise the interrelationships between them. • I recognise how things change over time and at different scales. • I can make confident evaluations based on evidence. • I am competent at selecting and using a broader range of geographical skills.	• I have relevant and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of complex and current geographical issues, sometimes going beyond the curriculum. • I have a perceptive understanding of human and physical geographical processes over time and at different scales and recognise the complexities of interrelationships between them. • I consistently demonstrate sophisticated and perceptive evaluations. • I can confidently select, use and evaluate a wide range of geographical skills.

You can find information for all departments and KS3 years here:
https://www.hgs.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Key+Stage+3+%28Years+7%2C+8%2C+9%29&pid=18.

What does HPA, MPA and LPA mean?

In order to offer a consistent structure of the assessment of your child's prior attainment, we have also recorded historical data in a common language. The three data points recorded are:

- Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)
- KS2 SATS outcomes, and
- Reading age.

Data within each of these strands is recorded on Go4Schools as either:

- **High Prior Attaining (HPA)**
- **Middle Prior Attaining (MPA),** or
- **Low Prior Attaining (LPA).**

This data is used by staff to identify students that may be capable of working at a consistently higher level beyond the expectations of the age related curriculum they are studying and may benefit from additional stretch and challenge in lessons. This does not limit our aspirations for your child, nor should it limit their own.

We believe that these resources will facilitate a stronger connection between the school and your family, enabling you to actively engage in your child's education. We encourage you to explore Go4Schools and the assessment criteria to better understand and support your child's academic studies.

If you encounter any issues or have questions, please feel free to contact us, and we will be happy to assist you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Your sincerely,

Mr A Derrett
Head of Physics
Key Stage 3 Assessment Lead