

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following extensive research and feedback, we have made changes to how we assess and report on the progress of our year 7 and 8 students. We realise that giving a GCSE expected grade in year 7 and 8 can distract from the enjoyment of learning, and hamper progress. Therefore the new system will allow all students to really focus on their personal learning journey.

In addition to the good practice that our teachers use to assess pupils throughout their time at Heron Hall Academy, we will be introducing this year a knowledge check, which checks that students are retaining key facts for each subject, and application checks, which check how students can apply knowledge to different situations. The first knowledge checks will start this week, and the first application checks will happen in the Spring term.

The new system recognises that learning is a process that happens over time and when performance is measured over time we gain a more accurate picture of your child's learning, their gaps in learning or their misconceptions. This will also allow us to identify early interventions for students either needing support, or need further challenge. Based on your child's Key Stage 2 and/or CATs data and any previous data, your child will be allocated a Band (A – E). Each Band is made up of a range of marks and your child is expected to score within this range in every assessment they do.

The bands are set out here:

Band	Test Score	Expected GCSE Grade at Year 11
E	27-30	8-9
D	20-26	6-7
C	10-19	4-5
B	3-9	2-3
A	0-2	Entry - 1

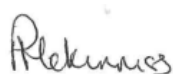
Each assessment will be out of a score of 30 in all subjects. The assessments will recall knowledge and skills from prior learning, helping to develop students cognitive ability. This will inturn ensure they are GCSE ready in year 11, and develop life long learning skills.

There will be two reports sent home which will indicate your child's progress (based on their performance in their most recent Application Check). These reports will contain what progress your child is making in each subject and a next step comment from the teacher, so your child is clear what they need to do to improve in their learning. The first report will be sent home before Easter and the second towards the end of the summer term.

We are positive that these new measures will support children in their learning.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. P McKinniss



Assistant Headteacher