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Dear Parent,

I hope that your daughter/son has settled well into the new academic year. As effort grades are being published shortly, I thought it might be helpful to outline our assessment schedule and share the underpinning philosophy.

Our assessment weeks feed into the period grades that are published twice a term. The course of study is broken down into topics taught through each half term. The assessments run during assessment week are end of topic tests, or a small in-class project on which recent learning is evaluated. It is important that pupils are not absent during assessment week, dates of which are in the calendar. The period grade is an outcome of that assessment and it may include a percentage of preps done for that topic.

Consequently, period grades may fluctuate and they inform us which topics the pupil has understood well and which they are less secure in. They are not predictions of final year grades, but a trend can be discerned. For example, a pupil in Year 8 will have 5 period grades at the end of the academic year, which will show attainment and effort and may be as follows:

PG1	PG2	PG3	PG4	PG5
b3	b4	d4	c4	b5

Or if in year 10 the first set are the GCSE levels, with an a/b/c to indicate how firm in that bank, the second number is the effort.

PG1	PG2	PG3	PG4	PG5
6a 3	7c 4	5b 4	5a 4	6 a 5

The above indicates that topics covered in Lent, PG3 and PG4, are the weakest topics and that work will need greater revision time when preparing for end of year exams. We use this assessment data to track progress period by period and where there is a dip, pupils may attend subject clinics. You will be notified when period grades are ready to view and can do so through the Parents' Portal.

The effort number that will be reported to you shortly is an indicator of effort made over the first few weeks as your child settles into the term. After the forthcoming assessment week, the full PG1 with both attainment and effort will be communicated to you.

Yours sincerely,

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