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Dear Parent,

I hope you had a pleasant Summer and that your child is starting the academic year refreshed and keen to study.

In the next week you will receive notification of our first reporting of the term. This is an Effort Only report, so no attainment grades, and is done so we can track that each child has settled in and is putting the necessary effort in. It enables us to do an early intervention if there is poor effort, so we can get the individual quickly back on track. 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 10 will have 6 period grades at the end of the academic year, which may be as follows:

PG1	PG2	PG3	PG4	PG5	PG6
B3	B4	D4	C4	B5	A5

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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that our grade information has been updated to reflect the examination boards move towards reporting GCSE's as numbers rather than grades. As this move by the government is a phased one, only a few subjects are being reported as numbers in the first round, we will continue to report all subject performance in grades. For parents of pupils in GCSE year groups you will be interested to know the phasing; English and Mathematics are being reported as levels in the GCSE 2017 series.

Cont.d

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The 2018 GCSE results will be reported in levels for all three Sciences, Drama, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, P.E. and R.S. All other subjects move to being reported as levels rather than grades in the 2019 GCSE results.

A reference sheet is enclosed which sets out the criteria for period grades and a comparison of grades to levels for GCSE.

Yours sincerely,

Encl.

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