

20 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This week students will receive their first 'Praising Stars' report of the academic year. Praising Stars is the system we use across all our academies to track student progress; to monitor effort and engagement in lessons as well as reporting on attendance and any concerns regarding homework and coursework. Likewise, the Praising Stars reports provide an opportunity to share with parents/carers the many praises students have received in lessons. Following the reports being issued to students, parents and carers, staff will start to review their interventions for next half term and will decide how to best support students to continue to achieve their best and tackle any concerns regarding behaviour and effort. Please take time to read the report with your child and to discuss with them, in particular, their praises, effort grades and attitude to learning.

This year all Praising Stars reports will be issued electronically via students' Google email accounts.

Please see below the dates that the reports will be issued to each year group so that you can look at them when they return home from school. In the unlikely event that there is a problem with accessing the report, please email your child's tutor who can arrange to have it printed and sent home. All students have an Academy Google email account and know how to access this information.

- Year 11: reports released on Wednesday 21st October 2020
- Years 10/9: reports released on Thursday 22nd October 2020
- Year 7/8: reports released on Friday 23rd October 2020

Included at the bottom of this letter are supporting documents that explain how to get the best out of your child's report. The first document explains how we report on 'age-related expectations' in Years 7 and 8 and make KS4 predictions in Years 9, 10 and 11. Please read these carefully as it will guide you through the information and data provided by staff.

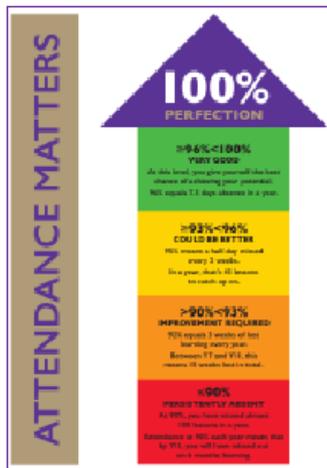
Thank you for all your continued support since we returned in September and let me take this opportunity to wish you all a pleasant half term break.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Day
Vice Principal

Understanding the Praising Stars® Report

We use our Praising Stars® system to inform you about your child's progress. The frequency of six half-termly reports enables us to improve the quality and impact of our intervention with students. We hope you will be equally pleased with the frequency with which you receive information about your child's progress. In brief, the report gives you information about:



• **Attendance and Behaviour.** You are provided with a record of your child's attendance and any concerns raised by our behaviour system.

Year 7 & 8 Reporting

• **Age Related Expectations** (see key describing age related expectations on the report) is reported for Years 7 and 8. Teachers will enter a current working level for each subject – which is compared against the target level for that subject.

Age Related Expectations		
Target from KS2	Current	Difference

The target is generated from Key Stage 2 SATs' scores and calculated to add a degree of challenge which is highly aspirational.

Targets may also be adjusted, throughout the year, by the academy principal to best reflect your child's ability.

If a target grade is not shown, it will be included as soon as the national averages are made available.

The difference column indicates how your child is performing against their aspirational target.

Year 9 to 11 and Post 16 Reporting

- Student in years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 are given a predication against their GCSE or A Level target.
- **Progress.** This tracks your child's progress across all 6 Praising Stars® and enables you to see the level of progress your child is making in each subject.

Progress	
PS 1-6	From Prev. PS



The graph will develop across the academic year indicating your child's progress towards their target.

At each Praising Stars® your child's rate of progress that half term is indicated by the use of the arrows below:



Moving forward – Your child has maintained their current working level while learning more content.



Moving upwards – Your child has increased their working level while also learning more content - this is exceptional.



Moving downwards – Sufficient progress has not been made throughout this Praising Stars® cycle – this is a cause for concern.

- **Effort (E1-E6).** Parents/Carers should view the effort grades first and foremost as a measure of your child's performance towards meeting/exceeding target grades. This will provide a clear indication of the work ethic in particular lessons.

E1 Star Student	E2 Promising Student	E3 Hard Working Student	E4 Wake-up Call	E5 Negative Attitude	E6 Extremely Negative
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- **Homework** – Where highlighted this shows that the teacher is raising a homework concern.