

20 January 2014

Dear Parent,

I am delighted to enclose your son/daughter's targets for this academic year. This letter will not only show you (and your child) what the targets are, but will also explain how we have arrived at these targets, and what we actually mean by a 'target'.

For Year 7 students, we have taken a range of data we hold on each student – their Key Stage 2 levels and the estimates provided for us by a company called Fischer Family Trust (FFT). We have also used the information gained from your child's performance in their recent CAT 4 and PASS tests.

CAT 4 testing provides such estimates based on each student's score in the verbal, spatial, non-verbal and quantitative parts of the test. These scores provide percentage chances for students achieving each level in their Key Stage 3 courses by the end of Year 9. Where the CAT estimate is higher than that provided by FFT, we have used that as the end of year target.

It is very important to point out that these are aspirational targets (in fact the CAT reports refer to the estimates as 'if challenged' estimates), which students can achieve if they play their part in the process. They represent a realistic goal, but only if your son or daughter is prepared to work hard in Key Stage 3 to achieve them.

Targets are most certainly NOT predictions of what we think they will attain by the end of Year 7. They are also NOT our estimates of what will happen, but belong to your son or daughter and provide them with something to aim at in each of their subjects. This has already been explained to students in assembly.

It is therefore very important that your child knows what their target is for each subject, and what they, personally, need to do in order to get to that target (or exceed it, which is perfectly possible).

I have spoken to students in each year group about this, as I want each of them to have the very clear message that we will play our part in supporting them to achieve targets, but that their own engagement in this process is equally (if not more) important. I am also very grateful for the support you continue to offer, as parents, in helping us to challenge each student to fulfil their potential and to monitor their progress along this path as Year 7 unfolds. We intend to review the targets when your child begins Year 8, and will write to you again at that time with any revisions that we have made.

Targets are expressed as fine levels, as at Key Stage 2. We will review how well your child is progressing towards their target during tutorial times, and during our regular collection of current assessment data.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's tutor in the first instance if you have any further questions about this.

Yours sincerely,



Mr L Walker
Vice Principal (Achievement)