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July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Summer 2 Student Profile

Your son/daughter's end of year Student Profile is available in SIMS Learning Gateway now. You can access the document by logging on to our Parent Portal (SIMS Parent Gateway), via the school website. Once connected, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "View Report", this will then give you access to your son/daughter's school reports. If you have any problems accessing SIMS Learning Gateway please email: slg@helsbyhigh.org.uk

The profile contains:

- Your son/daughter's Minimum Expected Grade (MEG) for the end of the year
- A progress indicator for each subject indicating whether your son/daughter has exceeded their MEG, achieved their MEG or is working below their MEG for the year.
- Effort grades and area for improvement targets, where appropriate (e.g. where effort grades are C or D).
- Behaviour levels
- Your son/daughter's summer exam results with the class average (French and German results are given as a new GCSE grade, all other subjects given as a percentage)
- Your son/daughter's tutor report

This year we have been trialling a system of using the new GCSE grades to set students' minimum expected grades and to help teachers track student progress through KS3 and 4. The new system is very much a work in progress, partly because the new GCSE grades are derived from new GCSE exams that have not yet been sat by students. This summer, 2017, GCSE students will take the new English and Maths exams for the first time and next summer, 2018, GCSE students will take the new exams in all other subjects except Business Studies, Design and Technology and Media Studies, for the first time. We are in the process of gathering information about how informative parents find the new system of reporting progress and would be grateful if you could complete the consultation document attached to this letter to help us make informed decisions about how we further improve the system for next year. Please return completed consultation documents to Student Services by Monday 10 July.

Teaching Groups in Maths, Science, French and German

Students who have made particularly good progress or have struggled to make good progress in Maths, Science, French and German may be subject to a change of group in one or more of those subjects. If this is the case you will be notified of the change by post and your son/daughter's teacher will discuss the change with your son/daughter during the first two weeks in July.

Teaching Groups for Art, Music and Drama

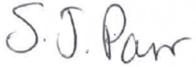
Having been taught in form groups for Year 7, in Years 8 and 9 one of the four groups in each colour (orange and yellow) consist of pupils who take individual instrumental or singing lessons, either in school or privately. This is mainly for practical reasons, so that in Music lessons pupils can use their instruments to complete classroom tasks that other groups would carry out on keyboards or guitars. This group is not set according to ability and is the same as the remaining six groups in each of Years 8 and 9 in being mixed-ability. Pupils who start or stop having lessons during the course of Year 8 may be transferred between groups at the start of Year 9, which may cause some other minor changes to become necessary to balance out the teaching groups.

Teaching Groups for Geography, History and RE

From September 2017, mixed ability teaching will be introduced for all humanity subjects (Geography, History and RE) in Years 8 and 9. Students are already taught in mixed ability groups in Year 7. This is intended to bring KS3 teaching in humanity subjects in line with current practice at KS4 and KS5, where mixed ability teaching takes place. Year 8 and 9 have previously been an anomaly in these subjects, and by using the same grouping system across all year groups, it provides consistency and equality of opportunity, alongside the ability to promote high aspirations for all humanities students.

For any other queries regarding your son/daughter's Student Profile or progress, please contact:
Year8admin@helsbyhigh.org.uk.

Yours sincerely



S Parr (Mrs)
Deputy Headteacher

4. Do you find the following helpful?

- | | |
|---|--------|
| a) End of year minimum expected grade (MEG) | Yes/No |
| b) Progress indicator | Yes/No |
| c) Effort Grade | Yes/No |
| d) Area for development target/s | Yes/No |
| e) Behaviour grade | Yes/No |

5. If you have answered no to any of the parts of question 4 please indicate how we could make the information more helpful.

6. a) Do you use the subject skills and knowledge checklists, available on the school website in each subject's area, when you talk to your son/daughter about what they are learning at school?

<https://www.helsbyhigh.org.uk/curriculum/>

Yes

No

b) If yes, do you find them helpful and in what way?

c) If no, please give brief details of how we can make them more helpful.

7. If you have any further comments, suggestions or questions about the progress information you receive from the school via the parents' evenings and the Student Profiles please add them here.

Thank you for taking the time to complete and return this survey.