

**Information for Parents:
Assessment Terms Explained**

Key Stage 3 (KS3)	At Hellesdon, we operate a 2-year KS3 programme, which covers Year 7 and Year 8. Year 9 is included in Key Stage 4.
Key Stage 4 (KS4)	At Hellesdon, we operate a 3-year KS4 programme, which covers Years 9, 10 and 11.
GCSE	General Certificate of Secondary Education. GCSE Exams are sat at the end of Year 11, and are now graded from 9-1 (see below).
BTEC	Business and Technology Education Council. BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications. They combine practical learning with subject and theory content and are generally more vocational than GCSEs. There are different levels of BTEC qualification, and exams can be sat in Year 11 and Year 13. Courses are graded as Pass / Merit / Distinction / Distinction*.
Cambridge Nationals	Full time vocational qualifications run by the OCR exam board. Cambridge Nationals at Levels 1 or 2 are equivalent in size to a GCSE. They are graded as Pass / Merit / Distinction / Distinction*.
GCSE grades	Graded from 9 (highest, equivalent to above an old A* grade) to 1 (lowest, equivalent to an old grade G). U grades remain the same for work that is ungraded at GCSE level. A GCSE grade 4 is roughly equivalent to an old grade C, and is the standard pass grade for GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature and GCSE Maths.
GCSE tiers	Tiered papers are where the exam for a subject has two levels of exam paper: foundation tier (grades 5-1) and higher tier (grades 9-4). Students are entered for the appropriate tier based on their predicted final grade. GCSE tiers apply to GCSE Maths, Science and Modern Foreign Languages.
Progress target	A personal, aspirational target grade that your child should aim for. It is based on prior attainment at Key Stage 2 (Year 6 SATS results) and the professional judgement of the teacher for that subject.
Current working grade	The current level of work that your child is producing. In Years 7 and 8, this is reported on a scale of 1-4. In Years 9-11, this is reported as a narrowing range of GCSE grades: in Year 9, a range of 3 GCSE grades, in Year 10, a range of 2 GCSE grades, and in Year 11, a single GCSE grade. This is because it is difficult to accurately assign a GCSE grade early in the course.

Predicted final grade	The grade that the teacher expects your child to achieve at the end of the course (Year 11 or Year 13). This is based on current performance and the professional judgement of the teacher.
Progress reviews (PR)	These are the points in the school year where we collect progress data for your child, which you can access via the Parent App.
Attitude to Learning	Your child's attitude towards their learning is graded on a scale from A (always ready, respectful and safe) to grade D (rarely ready, respectful or safe). The full explanation can be found in the assessment booklet.
PPEs	This stands for pre-public exams, held in Years 11 and 13. They are the 'mock exams' held just before the real thing – we have re-named them as the term 'mock' sends a misleading message about the importance of these exams.
Controlled assessment	Work that is completed under controlled (closely supervised) conditions and under a set time limit. This forms part of the overall grade for the subject, and is usually combined with a final exam grade.
Linear course	This means that all of the assessment for the course is held at the end (e.g. the summer of Year 11 or 13). Most GCSEs are now linear.
Principals' surgery	Held once a term to provide parents with the opportunity to drop in for a ten-minute meeting with the Principals, to discuss any issues or questions.
Information evenings	Held at the beginning of Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. Information will be shared about key dates during the year, the content of courses, who to ask for help and how you can best support your child through the year.
Options evening	Held in March for parents with children in Years 8 and 9. Clear guidance is given before choices for study at Key Stage 4 are made. It is also an opportunity to learn more about new subjects that are only offered in Years 10 and 11.
GL Assessments	Standardised tests in English, Maths and Science that are sat by students in Years 7, 8 and 9. The results of these tests allow a comparison to national average figures, and reports are sent home to parents.