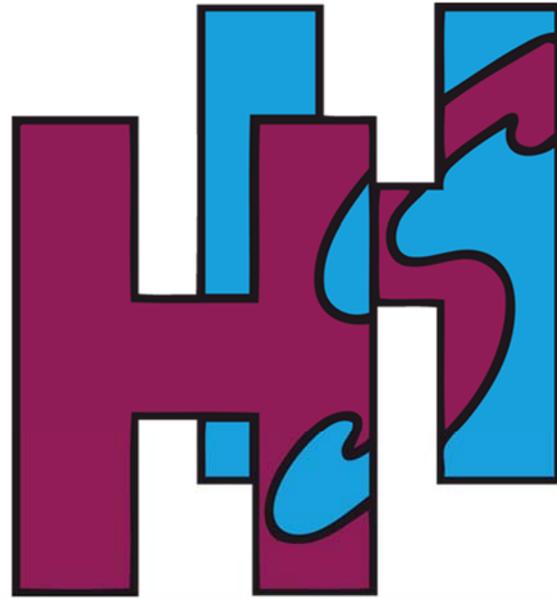


Hellesdon High School

*A Leading Edge Academy where students
Enjoy, Achieve and Succeed*



Part of the
WENSUM TRUST

A decorative graphic consisting of a horizontal line with a wavy, undulating shape below it. The wavy shape is filled with a gradient of maroon and blue colors.

A Parents' Guide to Years 7 and 8

Welcome to Years 7 and 8!

This booklet has been produced to help students through Years 7 and 8 (Key Stage 3), and as a guide for parents to support their children. It includes information about the assessment and tracking in Years 7 and 8, as well as acting as a point of reference for some of the questions that you may need answered.

As we all know, moving to high school can be a challenging time for students as they are studying new subjects, and being asked to produce work at a standard they have probably never done before. This booklet can help with some of the important dates, useful contacts and advice about the year.

We wish you every success in these important years at high school, and urge you to seek help from all members of staff as and when you need it. There are many ways in which we may be able to support you.

Mrs Claire Nickerson Head of Year 7

Mrs Carol Barnes Head of Year 8

Working together is the best way to ensure that your child reaches their full potential. This booklet explains how we will communicate with you about how well your son or daughter is getting on.

We aim to provide:

1. Clear, frequent, straightforward information.
2. Regular opportunities to listen and talk.

We will do this by:

- ✓ A 'Meet the Tutors' Evening early in Year 7 to ask questions, talk about how your child is settling in and highlight any possible concerns or issues.
- ✓ A Parents' Evening in Years 7 and 8 with subject teachers to discuss student progress.
- ✓ An Options Evening in Year 8 - an opportunity to learn more about the subjects available from Year 9 onwards, and discuss choices with subject teachers.
- ✓ Communication pathways with Form Tutors, Mentors, Heads of Year, Heads of Department and subject teachers. Planners, exercise books and home works can also be used to monitor progress.
- ✓ Use of the SIMS Parent App, secure online access to your child's assessments, behaviour record, achievements and attendance lesson by lesson.
- ✓ Two progress reviews per year from each subject teacher. All data will be available through the SIMS Parent App.

Progress reviews will give you information about...

1. Attitude to Learning Grade: Ready, Respectful, Safe

Grade A:	Grade B:	Grade C:	Grade D:	Grade E:
Your attitude to learning shows that you are always ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are usually ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are sometimes ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are rarely ready, respectful and safe.	There are serious concerns about your attitude to learning.

You show that you are **ready** for learning when you:

- arrive to each lesson on time
- wear your uniform correctly
- have the correct equipment for each lesson
- complete homework to a good standard
- act on advice given to improve your work
- are well-motivated to learn

You show that you have a **respectful** attitude to learning when you:

- take pride in your work
- complete all classwork to a good standard
- are respectful towards staff
- are respectful of the learning of others in your class

You show that you are **safe** when you:

- follow all instructions given, first time
- behave safely during the lesson
- act responsibly towards others

We expect all students to aim for 'A' Grades in all their subjects. We do not expect students to receive 'D' or 'E' Grades and these grades will trigger intervention from u

1. Target Grades

This is the grade students should aim to achieve by the end of the academic year. All target grades are based on progress from previous attainment at the end of Key Stage 2, and our expectation that students make excellent progress during Key Stage 3.

Each student will receive a personalised target grade for each subject area.

So what does '4+' mean?

To help us to see the progress a student is making in **one school year**, we use 'fine-grades'. A student working at grade 4 could be one of three possible 'fine-grades':

4+: working at the top of Level 4

4: working in the middle of Level 4

4-: just beginning to work at Level 4

Within **one school year**, moving on by two fine grades is generally expected progress.

So a student who starts the year at 4- and makes expected progress will reach a 4+ by the end of the year. A student who starts on a 4+ may reach a 5 by the end of the year.

However, students will make progress at different rates in different subjects, particularly if they are studying the subject for the first time at high school.

2. Current Working Grade

This is the current standard of work the student is producing. It will take into account the work that the student has produced so far or is working towards at present. It is a teacher assessment and will include class work, homework and test results.

Current working grades can fluctuate up and down from assessment to assessment. The end of year current working grade is the most reflective of the year and shows any progress made.

These current working grades do not equate to GCSE grades.

The following colours will represent the current working grade against the end of year target:

Above Target
On Target
2 or more Fine Grades Below Target
More than 1 grade below target

3. Attendance

Attendance at school affects your child's chances of success in school. We would expect all students to aim for **100% attendance**. It is important that we have an accurate record of each student's attendance and the reasons for any absence.

Look at how the following attendance can affect your child's education:

Attendance		Over a Fortnight	Over the school year	Over 5 years
95%	= absent for	½ day	1¼ weeks	½ a term
90%	= absent for	1 day	4 weeks	½ a school year
85%	= absent for	1½ days	6 weeks	¾ a school year
80%	= absent for	2 days	7½ weeks	1 school year
75%	= absent for	2½ days	10 weeks	1 school year + ½ term
70%	= absent for	3 days	11¼ weeks	1 school year + 1 term

Any holiday requests will not be authorised by the school as a legitimate reason for absence.

GL Assessments

In Years 7 and 8, your child will complete some externally-marked assessments (GL Assessments) in English, Maths and Science.

These tests allow us to monitor progress in these core subjects, provide us with accurate information about your child's current strengths and weaknesses to support the teacher's own judgements, and allow a comparison against national performance.

You will receive a report explaining your child's results in each test at three points over the two years:

- Beginning of Year 7 (English, Maths and Science)
- End of Year 7 (English and Maths)
- End of Year 8 (English, Maths and Science)

The GL Assessment Parent Reports will show a blue line which indicates your child's performance. The longer the line, the better they have performed in the test. The yellow box represents the national average.

What should I do with these reports and assessments?

- ✓ Please take the time to read through the assessments and reports with your son or daughter.
- ✓ Try to highlight areas of strength and those areas that perhaps need improving.
- ✓ Think about some possible questions you may like to ask at parents' evening.
- ✓ If you are concerned, contact the relevant member of staff at the school to seek clarification.

And finally, praise and encourage your child for the successes that they have achieved. Self-belief is extremely important to any child in fulfilling their potential.