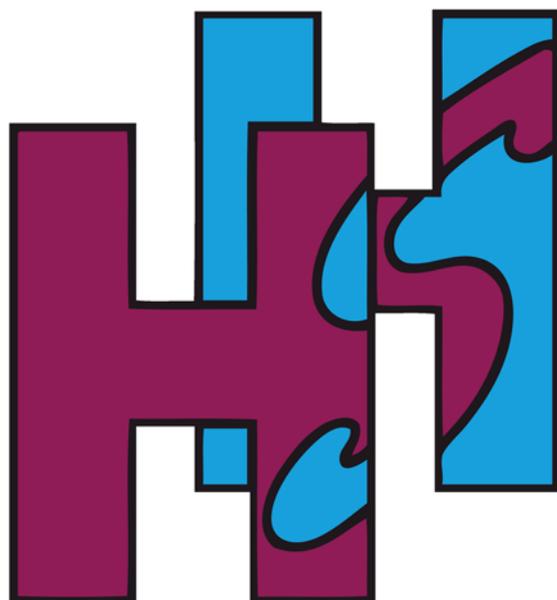


# Hellesdon High School

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



Part of the  
**WENSUM** TRUST



## **A Parents' Guide to Year 9**

## **Welcome to Year 9!**

This booklet aims to help you support your child through this important year, as they begin studying GCSE courses in many subjects. It includes information about progress reviews in Year 9 and hopefully will answer some of your questions.

As we all know, Year 9 can be a challenging time for students as they are 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.

I wish you the best of luck for Year 9 and urge you to seek help from all members of staff as and when you need it. There are many ways in which we can support you.

Mrs Smith  
Head of Year 9

Working together is the best way to ensure that your child reaches their full potential. This booklet explains how we will communicate with you.

### **We aim to provide:**

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

### **We will do this by:**

- ✓ A Head of Year Information Evening at the start of the year.
- ✓ Three progress reviews during the year from each subject teacher. All data will be available through the SIMS Parent App.
- ✓ An Options Evening in March – an opportunity to learn more about the subjects available from Year 10 onwards, and discuss choices with subject teachers.
- ✓ A Parents' Evening in June with subject teachers – an opportunity to talk about progress, coursework, exam preparation and any questions you may have.
- ✓ Communication pathways with Tutors, Heads of Year, Heads of Department and subject teachers. Planners, exercise books and homework can also be used to monitor progress.
- ✓ Use of the SIMS Parent App, which provides secure online access to your child's assessment results, achievement points, attendance lesson by lesson and behaviour marks.

# 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 <b>always</b> ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are <b>usually</b> ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are <b>sometimes</b> ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are <b>rarely</b> 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 us.

## **2. Student Target Grade Range**

All students will receive an aspirational target grade range for each subject. In Year 9, this will be a range of three GCSE grades: for example, a student may receive a target grade range of grade 5-7.

This target grade range will gradually narrow to two GCSE grades in Year 10, and single target grade at the beginning of Year 11.

The reason for this grade range is to reflect the challenge of accurately assigning a single GCSE grade early in the course, as not all of the knowledge and skills will have been taught at this stage. It is also hoped that the grade range will help students to see their progress towards an end of year 11 target grade more positively.

## **3. Current Working Grade Range**

Just like the student target grades, current working grades will also be reported as a range of three GCSE grades in Year 9.

This range of three grades is the current standard of work that your child is producing. It will take into account the work that they have produced so far or are working towards at present. It is a teacher assessment and will be informed by:

- ✓ any exam results;
- ✓ any module results or resits;
- ✓ any coursework or controlled assessments completed;
- ✓ current class work;
- ✓ homework tasks.

The reason for this current working grade range is, as mentioned above, to reflect the challenge of accurately assigning a single GCSE grade at this early stage of the course.

## Progress Rates

Students will progress at different rates in different subjects. Due to the nature of how subjects are delivered, it may not be possible to achieve the very highest grades until the subject content required is covered in class. This should be considered when comparing current working grades and target grades.

The following 'thermometer' colours will show you how the current working grade range compares to the end of course target grade. Red represents 'hot' (i.e. above target), and blue represents 'cold' (i.e. below target):

<b>Exceeding target range</b>
<b>Meeting target range</b>
<b>1 grade below target range</b>
<b>More than 1 grade below target range</b>

## 4. Attendance

Attendance at school affects your child's chances of success in school. We 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

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

Regular attendance in all lessons is crucial in Years 9, 10 and 11, as every lesson will be covering important exam or coursework content that may not be repeated later in the course.

## Is there a link between Year 6 SATS levels and GCSE target grades?

Yes. The levels that your child achieved in English and Maths in their Year 6 SATS tests are used to predict target grades for the end of Year 11. The table below shows how they link:

Year 6 SATS Level in English or Maths	Minimum target grade at end of Year 11
6	8,9
5	7
4	6
3	4,5
2	3

## What should I do with the information I receive at each progress review?

- Please take the time to read through the assessments with your child.
- Try to highlight areas of strength and those areas that perhaps need improving.
- Think about some possible questions you may like to ask at each 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 and positive self-esteem is extremely important for any child to make progress and achieve.

## Help!

We really do appreciate how challenging this year can be for students (and their families) so we have a number of specialists within school who can assist with any issues:

Subject teachers and Year 9 Tutors

*Mrs Smith*                      Head of Year 9

*Mr Taylor*                      Leadership Link for Year 9

*Miss Thetford*                Student Wellbeing

*Mrs Warnock*                Information, Advice and Guidance Co-ordinator

# **What will happen and when?**

## **Head of Year Information Evening:**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## **Options Evening:**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## **Parents' Evening:**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## **Progress Review Points:**

November, March and June