



# Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT  
Headteacher: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT  INNOVATIVE  MINDFUL  EMPLOYABLE 

Letter ref: Y11C2 PR/24

21<sup>st</sup> November 2023

## Year 11 – Cycle 2 Progress Report

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter is to inform you that your child's first progress report (for cycle 2), covering the period up to the October half-term, will be available for you to view and download later today.

Kingsmead School has published your child's progress report on the parent app – My Child at School (MCAS). More information on MCAS is available on the school [website](#). From the Reports section of MCAS, you will be able to view the progress report and download a copy of it. The report will remain available in PDF format for the duration of your child's time at the school.

Your child's progress report includes the following information:

- **Expected Grade** – the grades your child is expected to achieve at the end of their course.
- **Current Grade** – the grades that your child is currently working at in each of their subjects.
- **Expected Grade Check** – indicates whether your child is 'exceeding', 'meeting' or 'working below' their expected grade in each subject.
- **Attitude to Learning** – a written comment from your child's teacher, explaining how well your child has met their teachers' expectations.

You can read more about assessment and reporting at Kingsmead, [here](#).

Kingsmead is committed to closing any gaps and for this reason we share "[I can...](#)" statements from your child's subject personal learning checklists (PLCs) with you. Printed copies of the PLCs, together with a printed copy of your child's report, will be given to your child by their progress tutor.

These PLC statements help to map out for your child what they 'can and can't do' from their recent work and assessments. Your child can use the upgrade and re-visit tasks on the [blended learning platform](#) to help with anything they cannot do – the gaps in knowledge or skills. We model this in class and would encourage you and your child to do this at home as well. The blended learning platform can be accessed by your child from home (here are links to a 'how to...' [video](#) and [guide](#)).

The students have used their PLCs from across different subjects to write their Progress Reviews, tying together their learning journey to help them identify and celebrate strengths and to enable them to focus on specific skills and knowledge that are areas for development.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have a query. If you have any queries about individual subjects, please contact the class teacher. For general queries, please contact your child's progress tutor or myself.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. G. Taylor  
Year 11 Progress Leader

## Attendance and outcomes

We know that there is a strong link between good attendance and improved exam outcomes. There is strong evidence of this link in our 2023 GCSE exam results.

On average, Kingsmead students in 2023 with an attendance percentage between 96% and 100% achieved one whole grade above the national average, in every one of their subjects – making half a grade more in progress than the other Kingsmead students with below expected attendance. So, if they were expected to achieve the national average grade 5 in each subject, they achieved a grade 6 instead.

Students with a percentage attendance between 96% and 100%, also achieved an average grade of 6 in all of their subjects (including in Maths, English and Science)! This is one whole grade higher than students with average attendance of 95% or below.

The Year 11 exam results show that students with 90% attendance or less achieve average grades which are lower, in some cases two full grades below what those with the expected 96% attendance achieve.



It couldn't be easier for your child and you to identify the homework set and when it is for. Satchel One (formerly Show My Homework) can be accessed through any electronic device.

Remember, they need to sign in with Office 365!

## GCSE & Level 2 BTEC Grades

Following a number of parental queries, we felt it would be helpful to explain the different grades being reported in the progress reports and their significance.

Grade Equivalences		
9 to 1 (New) GCSE Grades	Vocational Grades	<p>At the end of Year 11, Kingsmead students will achieve either 9 to 1 GCSE grades, or the equivalent vocational grades, in performance related BTECs.</p> <p>In 2017, new GCSE qualifications in English Language, English Literature and mathematics were introduced. These qualifications were the first to be graded 9 to 1.</p> <p>New GCSE qualifications have now been introduced for most other subjects. These are also graded 9 to 1.</p> <p>Students will no longer achieve qualifications graded A*-G.</p> <p>To reduce confusion, all other qualifications are now mapped onto the 9 to 1 grades. Some vocational grades straddle two grades on the 9 to 1 grade scale. The arrows show the most appropriate equivalent grades to these vocational grades, on the 9 to 1 scale.</p> <p>Grade 7 is equivalent to the old 'A' grade. Grade 5 is now recognised as the new 'good pass'. Grade 4 is equivalent to the old C grade, and is regarded as the minimum, or 'standard' pass.</p>
9		
8	Level 2 Distinction*	
7	Level 2 Distinction	
6	Level 2 Merit	
5		
4	Level 2 Pass	
3	Level 1 Distinction	
2	Level 1 Merit	
1	Level 1 Pass	
U	U/Fail	

### Science Split-Double Grades

In 2018 a new GCSE combined science qualification was first awarded. With this qualification, students receive an award worth 2 GCSEs. It will consist of two equal or adjacent grades from 9 to 1, giving 17 possible grade combinations – for example, (9-9); (9-8); (8-8) through to (1-1).

Since students will have covered two GCSEs' worth of content and the overall exam time is similar to that for two GCSEs, it is right that the grade they are awarded reflects this. The double grade will be based on their overall mark across the three science subjects they study (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics); so good performance in one subject will compensate for weaker performance in another, as in any GCSE. This is reflected in the available grade combinations, which can therefore only be either the same (for example 5-5) or adjacent (for example 5-4) grades from 9 to 1. Students will not end up with grade combinations such as 5-3 or 7-4.

The new GCSE science qualifications can be taken in different ways – some students will take single GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. As with the other GCSE qualifications, these will be graded 9 to 1.