

Dear Parent / Carer,

Over the last term, Year 9 have made a fantastic start on their new KS4 Subject Options and are working hard to ensure they become *Creative, Happy and Successful* learners. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this exciting journey!

Please find enclosed your child's **Year 9 Autumn Report**. At the end of last half term, Year 9 sat their first set of Progress Tests in each of their subjects. These tests have been introduced this year to help prepare pupils for the new GCSE exam requirements and to develop key skills in knowledge recall, application of knowledge and working memory. There have been huge reforms to GCSE specifications in the last few years, which have meant significant changes to how pupils are being assessed. With this increase in challenge and rigour, it has become very important for us to build student skills and learning resiliency to prepare for this new age of assessment.

Pupils will sit Progress Tests in each of their subjects towards the end of **each term**. Following this they will receive a raw score from their class teacher and feedback on their performance in the exam. In our termly reports to parents, we will report if pupils are making '**expected progress**', '**below expected progress**' or '**above expected progress**' in each of their subjects. These statements will be based on ***their performance in the progress test compared with other learners in their year group with similar KS2 starting points***. Pupils will either be on the Blue, Green or Yellow pathways based on these starting points; this is highlighted on the report and explained further in the '**CHS Guide to Learning**' which has also been enclosed.

The concept of reporting on their progress in comparison to other learners also reflects changes to the assessment of GCSE examinations. Previously these qualifications have been based on meeting assessment criteria; in the future examination boards will be applying an element of 'comparable outcomes' to their marking. In essence this means that they will decide a percentage of students they wish to achieve a certain grade, and they will then apply this to the exam scores of all the students who take the exam that year.

### **Progress Statements Explained**

Example - Pupil A, B and C are on the **Blue Pathway in Maths**. This means they are aiming for a Grade 7-9 in Maths at GCSE (old grades A\*-B) at the end of Year 11.

#### **Pupil A is:**

**Making Expected Progress** – this means that in his Progress Test, his score was in line with students with similar starting points and he is on course for making his expected Grade 7-9.

**Pupil B is:**

Above Expected Progress – this means that in her Progress Test, her score was above most students with similar starting points and she is on course for performing at the upper end of her expected Grade 7-9

**Pupil C:**

Below Expected Progress – this means that in his Progress Test, his score was below most students with similar starting points and he is performing at the lower end of his expected grade of 7-9 and maybe at risk of performing below his expected grade of Level 7-9.

In addition to this, pupils will receive a **Classroom Effort** and **Home Learning Effort** for each of their subjects.

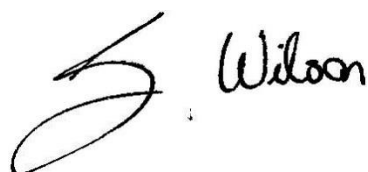
At the start of this term class teachers will be encouraging students to reflect on their own learning; asking them to consider which aspects of their learning they feel secure in, which they feel unconfident about and will then focus on how they continue to learn successfully. *'I try, I persevere, I achieve'*

If you would like to support your child in moving forward this term, please go to our school home page and access the 'Life at CHS' drop down menu, which will take you to our 'Curriculum' area. In this area, you will have access to all of the topics of study for each subject for each year group.

Each student also has access to our online Homework and Revision tool – **Doddle**. This will help them do further independent study and revision for their next set of Progress Tests. See further information about Doddle in the 'CHS Guide to Learning' which has been enclosed. Pupils also have access to GCSEPod, another fantastic online revision tool.

As we continue to develop the Progress Tests this year we would greatly appreciate parental feedback. To enable this a short online survey can be accessed on the homepage of our website.

I hope that this report provides you with a valuable insight to your child's progress in Year 9 thus far and helps him/her to prepare effectively for the challenges of the rest of the year. If there are any issues or questions raised by this report that you wish to discuss then please feel free to contact the school. Any enquiries should be directed to Mr Casey (Head of Year) or Ms Galbraith, (Assistant Headteacher with the responsibility for Year 9), in the first instance.



Deputy Headteacher  
Geraldine Wilson