

Lancaster Royal Grammar School



October 2009

To All Fourth Year Parents

Dear Parent

Grades system for the Middle School

In order to accommodate government regulations concerning target setting we use a different grades system to monitor boys' performance in the middle school. We hope you will agree that this system will give you more information about your son's progress towards GCSE examinations. This is how the system works.

Heads of departments, with individual subject teachers, will calculate GCSE targets for your son based on previous performance. The target grades are our initial estimate of the grades that your son is most likely to achieve at the end of Year 11. Targets are intended to be realistic but will also provide an element of challenge.

The Middle School grades letter will appear similar to previous versions but it will have a target (A* to C) written along side each subject. Grades are monitored by issuing grades from A* to D. **These grades are a measure of the standard of work in a particular grades period.**

Grade	Level of Attainment	Current expectation for GCSE is
A*	Exceptional	A*
A	Very good	A
B	Generally good	B
C	Just acceptable	C
D	Low standard	D

An effort grade will also be given

A plus symbol will be used to indicate effort above expected standard.

An = symbol will be used to indicate effort is to the expected standard.

A minus sign will be used to indicate effort is below the expected standard.

The number at the bottom of the grades column is a percentage and represents an average of your son's level of attainment in all subjects, based on the following scores:

Grade	Score
A*	10
A	9
B	8
C	7
D	6

In English some groups may be working on both a Language and a Literature project over the grades period and will receive two grades. Other groups may be working on either Language or Literature topics and will receive a single grade. This is why the percentage is calculated.

The grades score will help you to track your son's performance throughout the year. The pro-forma overleaf should help to explain the system.

	<i>Target Grade</i>	<i>Half Term</i>	<i>End of Term</i>	<i>Half Term</i>	<i>End of Term</i>	<i>Half Term</i>
English Lang	A*	A +	A =			
English Lit	A*	B =				
French	A	B =	A =			
Mathematics	A*	A* =	A*			
Physics	A*	A* +	B -			
Chemistry	A*	A* =	A+			
Biology	A	A =	A =			
Technology	A	A +	B +			
R.S.						
History	A	A =	A =			
Geography						
German	A	B -	B =			
Spanish						
Latin						
Greek						
Art & Design						
Music	A	A -	A =			
Grade Score		90	88			

- When a boy continues to perform consistently at a level above the target, the target may be raised.

Targets will be reviewed after each internal examination. Heads of Departments will devise, with colleagues in their departments, procedures to support pupils who are below target in their subject.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information or clarification.

Yours faithfully

Mr Ian Ralston
Head of Middle School