

# Lancaster Royal Grammar School



To: All Lower Sixth Form Parents

September 2009

Dear Parent,

## *Targets and Grades system for the Sixth Form*

A few years ago, we introduced a grades system to monitor boys' performance in the Sixth Form. We hope you will find that this system gives you more information about your son's progress towards his A-level examinations. This is how the system works.

### *(i) Targets:*

In September rough target grades are calculated for each boy based on his overall GCSE results, using our experience of the correlation between GCSE and A-level grades. These grades will give you some idea of how your son can be expected to perform at A-level. However, at this stage they are fairly rough target grades, and they are not estimates. They also contain a 'challenge factor'.

$$\text{A-level target} = \text{A-level forecast} + \text{challenge factor}$$

More accurate targets will be issued in January after the Lower Sixth examinations and following a discussion between your son and his teachers. These targets will be based on the expected outcome of combined AS and A2 examinations at the end of the upper sixth. The targets will follow the current A-level system which uses letters A to E for pass grades.

### *(ii) Grades:*

Subject teachers will give grades A to E at various times during the school year. Plus and minus symbols may be used to indicate effort. Boys will be issued with grade letters and will be asked to take these home. Please inspect the grade letter, discuss the implications with your son, sign the tear-off slip in the appropriate place and return it, via your son, to his form teacher. Some examples of how to interpret grades are given below:

- Most boys who work consistently are likely to achieve an A-level grade corresponding to their A-level target. In this case the student is working well in that subject and is making good progress.
- A boy who has 'A' as a target but whose work is below par can expect to be awarded a grade 'B-' or worse. Some improvement will be required in order to achieve the A-level target.
- A boy who has 'B' as a target but who produces some exceptional work will be awarded an 'A' or possibly 'A+'.

When a boy's performance falls short of his target, heads of departments and form tutors, working with colleagues in their departments, will devise procedures to support him. Targets will be regularly reviewed at key points throughout the two years, and raised or lowered after consultation with boys.

Targets and grades will be the subject of comments on school reports. Our proposed time schedule for reports and grades is as follows:-

| <b>Date</b>                     | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Enter targets on Grade letter</b> | <b>Enter grades on Grade letter</b> | <b>School Report</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| September (L6)                  | Issue initial targets                                   | ✓ *                                  |                                     |                      |
| October (L6)                    | First L6 grades   |                                      | ✓ *                                 |                      |
| December (L6)                   | Monitor progress by giving grades                       |                                      | ✓ *                                 |                      |
| January (L6) after school exams | Review initial targets                                  | ✓                                    |                                     | ✓                    |
| April (L6)                      | Monitor progress by giving grades                       |                                      | ✓ *                                 |                      |
| September (U6) Parents evening  | Report on AS performance and set new targets            | ✓                                    |                                     | ✓                    |
| October (U6)                    | First U6 grades   |                                      | ✓ *                                 |                      |
| December (U6)                   | Monitor progress by giving grades                       |                                      | ✓ *                                 |                      |
| January (U6)                    | Report on any 'mock' examinations and overall progress. |                                      |                                     | ✓                    |
| April (U6)                      | Monitor progress by giving grades                       |                                      | ✓ *                                 |                      |
| June (U6)                       | Final report  |                                      |                                     | ✓                    |

\* Parents are asked to inspect, sign and return the tear-off slip on the grade sheet.

I hope that you and your son find this system helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact the Head of Sixth Form, Mr. Stephen Hirst, if you would like any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Jarman  
Headmaster