



From the Headmaster: Mr C. Hyde-Dunn, MA(Oxon), PGCE, MA(Ed.), NPQH

Letter to all parents

07 October 2011

Dear Parents

Grading Descriptors for Effort and Achievement Years 3 to Year 8

Please see outlined below the grading descriptors we are using for pupils' effort and achievement this academic year. While the grading system remains the same, ranging from **A to E for effort** and **1 to 5 for achievement**, the wording of the descriptors has been slightly modified in order to facilitate the opportunity for Staff to offer further positive reinforcement to pupils. Please note from the grading descriptors that an effort grade of C and an achievement grade of 3 means that a pupil is meeting Staff expectations for their year group. Moreover, please be aware that achievement is measured not by a boy's set but by the School's expectation of a boy in that subject in his particular year group at this school. These grading descriptors will be used in the boys' regular class work and homework when there is not an exercise specific marking criteria, such as might be used with a past exam paper. In addition the grading descriptors will also be used ahead of Parents Evenings in the form of an interim assessment and they will appear in a written subject report at the end of each term. Please [follow this web link](#) for a comprehensive breakdown of which subjects will be reported upon in the respective terms.

EFFORT		ACHIEVEMENT
A	EXCELLENT	1
B	GOOD	2
C	SOUND	3
D	MODEST	4
E	POOR	5

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Effort Symbols:

- A exemplary attitude at all times – concentrates and participates eagerly in all activities, keen and always willing to try their best
- B very good attitude, working hard, concentrates in lessons and participates well in a variety of tasks
- C positive and willing attitude most of the time, adequate concentration, will participate in tasks when asked.
- D does what is required but tends to lack self-motivation and concentration. Only participates with encouragement.
- E: negative attitude to any task set, unwilling to participate, often distracted or distracting others in lessons.

Achievement Symbols:

These grades are a measure of performance for your child's age. These expectations will generally be based on National Curriculum guidelines for levels of attainment for different year groups and/or Common Entrance performance indicators, as specified in subject schemes of work.

- 1 consistently producing work or performing at a level far above expectations
- 2 most work produced is of a very high standard, above that of expectations
- 3 working well, standard produced satisfies expectations
- 4 finds some areas of work difficult and often performs under expectations
- 5 struggling in many areas of the curriculum, experiencing significant difficulties which means they are performing well under expectations.

We strongly emphasise that indicators C or 3 are entirely sound and satisfactory. Clearly we hope that children will aim for higher indicators, but in some situations, especially with regard to the higher symbols of achievement, this can be difficult to attain.

If your child has several indicators below the C or 3 levels in certain areas, we recommend that you communicate any concerns to us via your child's Form Tutor in the first instance. In reality, it is likely that the Form Tutor has already noted any significant patterns and they will contact you to discuss the situation further.

The modest revisions to the grading descriptors will be explained in detail to the boys so that there is a full understanding of the assessment made. I hope this outline affords you a clear understanding of how your son is faring in his effort and achievements across the curriculum at the school. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me or in the first instance your son's Form Teacher.

With all best wishes

Crispin Hyde-Dunn