

Hele's School

A great place to learn. A great place to grow.



February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Key Stage 3 Learning Overview 2

Please find attached the Learning Overview for December 2022-February 2023.

In brief, the Learning Overview provides the following information:

Attendance – attendance has a significant influence on the outcomes achieved by learners in assessment and examinations – the national minimum expectation is 95% and the school's aspirational expectation is 96%.

Achievement and Behaviour Points – parents have “live” access to these via ClassCharts but the summary on the report was captured on the Friday before the report was published.

Reading scores – the reading scores are given as a reading age and a standardised score with 100 being average. This information has been taken from nationally benchmarked reading assessments called the National Group Reading Test. A student's reading score is a strong indicator of performance at GCSE because if students have learnt to read, then they can confidently read to learn.

Commitment to Learning – a student's commitment to improving the quality of their work, commitment to producing high quality homework and commitment to regulating their own behaviour for learning throughout Key Stage 3 are strong indicators of educational success. Students are given one of the following descriptors for each aspect of their Commitment to Learning: Excellent, Good, Inconsistent, Concern.

I hope you find the information contained in the Learning Overview useful to support a dialogue at home about your child's progress. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's tutor for general enquiries or subject teachers for subject-specific enquiries.

Yours faithfully,

Clare Pomfret

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What is a reading age?

A Reading Age is the term given to a child's reading ability when considered against the expectations for a child of their age. If a child has learnt to read confidently then they are able to access the full curriculum of subjects.

Examples

Two children in Year 7, both aged 11, may read at different levels.

One may be a proficient reader, able to understand texts that are usually read by children a few years older. So while this child is only 11 years old, they have a reading age of 13.4 (13 years and 4 months).

The other child may struggle more, and read easier books meant for children a bit younger. This child is 11 but has a reading age of 8.9 (8 years and 9 months).

Children who are on track with their reading usually have a reading age that is the same as their actual age.

How can you support your child with reading?

1. Encourage your child to read anything- don't worry too much about the 'what' and the 'how' of reading each day. Books are great but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too as can digital or even audio books.
2. Engage in conversations with your child about what they have read- ask lots of questions; ask your child to make predictions about what they have read; ask your child to summarise what they have read; ask your child to write about what they have read.
3. Try to find quality time so that your child can concentrate on their reading- they may read on their own or they may still like to read to you. It's important to show your child the benefits of reading and to support them with finding joy in reading.