

Hele's School

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



Dear Parent/Carer

November 2018

Key Stage 3 Interim Assessment 1 Reports

Please find enclosed a copy of your child's Interim Assessment Report for the first term. You will find a commitment to learning grade and a current performance grade. We look at three different aspects for commitment to learning: attitude to learning, independent learning and behaviour for learning. Teachers use a limiting judgement approach to report back the lowest aspect of commitment to learning from the three aspects. The commitment to learning criteria statements are below:

	Excellent	Good	Inconsistent	Unsatisfactory
Attitude to learning	I am determined, focussed, receptive and persistent. I make an effort to understand what is required for my own learning when the work is challenging. I always try to improve and do my best work.	I am focussed and generally positive in lessons. I will always give it a go and I usually aim to improve my work.	My attitude is inconsistent. At times I am focussed but sometimes I get distracted. I can lose interest when I find the work challenging or uninteresting.	My attitude is often negative. I avoid challenging work and I am not interested in being the best or doing the best work that I can.
Independent learning	I always complete homework to the best standard I can. I will ask my teacher, sometimes outside of lesson time, if I am not sure what to do. I sometimes complete extra reading and extra work in my own time.	I try to complete homework to a good standard, but I could achieve even better standards with more time and effort. I know where to find support outside the lesson if needed.	My homework is sometimes completed to an acceptable standard and deadlines are sometimes missed. I know that I am capable of achieving a higher standard but I often do not put the time and effort into the work.	I usually do not complete homework on time or to an acceptable standard. I do not take responsibility for completing my work.
Behaviour for learning	My behaviour is excellent. I try to be thoughtful and determined; I always achieve the best I can with any set work. I try to set a positive example to others.	My behaviour is good. I follow instructions and am considerate to others. I am mainly focussed on achieving the best I can.	My behaviour is inconsistent—It can be acceptable when I am working on something I enjoy, but I can be off-task when the work is more difficult or challenging.	My behaviour is unsatisfactory. I avoid learning and I am disengaged with my learning. When faced with challenging work I give up easily and will not try to complete the task. I often distract others or allow myself to be distracted.

Following the national removal of levels in 2015, schools were given the opportunity to create their own assessment system. The underlying principal of assessment in Year 7 and 8 is that students are assessed against the key concepts and skills that departments have identified as being important to allow students to make progress in their subject areas.

In Year 7 and 8, students are assessed into four bands of attainment – Mastering, Securing, Developing and Emerging – judged against the specific key concepts that have been taught and assessed up to that particular point. In order to track progress of students we identify which band we would expect students to be working in according to their prior attainment in reading and maths at KS2, as this is the main measure used by the Government and OFSTED, although our ultimate aim is for all students to aim to be at least secure in all the key concepts.

Principal: Justine Mason

Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

Telephone: 01752 337193 Fax: 01752 331460

email: heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk website: www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk

Hele's School is part of Westcountry Schools Trust. Registered address: Harford Road, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0AJ
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company number: 07398467



We would expect that students who are working in the following bands would be likely to go on to achieve the following grades at GCSE:

Band	KS2 Average Scaled Score (Reading and Maths)	Target GCSE Grades (new grades)	Target GCSE Grades (old grades for comparison)
Emerging	80-94	1/2/3/4/5	G/F/E/D/C
Developing	95- 105	4/5/6	C/B
Securing	106-111	6/7/8	B/A/A*
Mastering	112-120	8/9	A*

It is important to understand that your child's attainment band may move up or down at each IA point depending on the performance in that particular unit of work and progress towards the specific key concepts taught. Please also note that **the concepts are designed to get progressively more challenging as the year goes on and that a student who remains in their target band throughout the key stage is making good progress.**

At Hele's School we have high aspirations for our young people and have deliberately set the bar high. On the IA report there is an indication of which band we would expect your child to be working in if they are to **exceed** national expectations, based on their relative starting point. Students who are not meeting their target band are not failing and there is not necessarily an immediate cause for concern, but it may indicate that your child may need extra support in that subject area. The key concepts and subject specific criteria for IA1 can be viewed on the school website: www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk/assessment or under the school information tab > assessment and reporting.

We firmly believe that establishing a culture of high challenge and support will allow our young people to be highly successful in their future pathways. Students, in conjunction with their teachers, will be setting subject specific targets and next step actions in their exercise books and on page 13 of their planners. Please do use these, and the criteria on the website, to discuss with your child how to best support them in their learning.

Finally, a reminder that there is an opportunity for parents of students in Year 7-11 to meet with their child's tutor at the upcoming Meet the Tutor Evening on Wednesday 21st November. The evening provides an opportunity to reflect on the IA report and discuss targets for the year. Bookings are available now. Please click on the link on our website (under the Parents tab) or alternatively visit <https://heles.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> to book your appointment. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to add an appointment on your behalf.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Graham
Assistant Principal – Assessment and Reporting