

Limehurst Academy

Changes to Assessment at Key Stage Three

**For students currently in
Year Seven**



A Specialist Sports College

Limehurst's assessment system - Background

At the beginning of the academic year 2014/2015 a new National Curriculum was introduced, and the Government decided to remove the use of National Curriculum Levels as a form of measuring and reporting on attainment and achievement.

The DFE expected all schools and colleges to have put a system in place to replace this method of assessment by the end of the same academic year.

These guidelines were provided for schools:

- Schools must replace National Curriculum Levels with their own assessment system that demonstrates attainment and progress.
- Schools must be able to inform parents/carers about their child's progress against their potential and compare the performance of individuals to students within their cohort and nationally.
- Schools need to develop their own internal assessment systems, as well as external national testing, on a regular basis to benchmark progress and outcomes.
- Schools must be able to show what their students know, understand and can do through continuous and summative assessments.

Key Stage 3 Assessment at Limehurst Academy

National Curriculum levels have been replaced by a grading system using numbers 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest.

This grading system mirrors the new GCSE grades that will be introduced in 2018 across all subjects (English and Maths in 2017). This will give parents/carers, students and teachers a much clearer idea of the grade that is most likely to be achieved at the end of GCSEs in each subject.

These have been introduced to students in the form of Learning Pathways:

Tracking Grade 1-2	Foundation pathway	Working towards national expectations
Tracking Grade 3	Developing pathway	
Tracking Grade 4-5	Secure pathway	Working at national expectations
Tracking Grades 6-7	Excellence pathway	Working beyond national expectations
Tracking Grades 8-9	Exceptional pathway	

At the beginning of Year 7, students are set a **Minimum Tracking Grade** based on their Key Stage Two performance in English and Maths. They are then given **Current Tracking Grades** by their teachers, to give an indication of their most likely outcome based on their work in class.

Measuring progress

In previous years, it was relatively easy to see the progress a student was making because the levelling system was incremental. Students were expected to 'go up' by a certain amount each year.

The system we now use at Limehurst is different in that students making estimated progress will stay at the same grade. Therefore, a student who starts Year 7 at Grade 5 and leaves with a Grade 5 at GCSE has made estimated progress. This is because the assessment criteria for Grade 5 will become more challenging year-on-year.

If at any point, the same student's Current Tracking Grade is adjusted to Grade 6, they will be making 'more than estimated' progress.

The advantage of this system is that once a student's initial grade (Minimum Tracking Grade) is known in Year 7, students, parents/carers and teachers will have a good indication of what should be achieved at GCSE assuming estimated progress is made.

Reporting to Parents

We report to parents between two and three times during the school year. At least one of these reports is a 'Progress Reports' and contain information on your child's Current Tracking Grades compared to the Minimum Tracking Grades generated by Key Stage Two results.

We also send home a 'Full' or 'Annual Report', again containing information about a student's grades, but also allowing your child's teachers to comment on how your child is performing in each subject area.