



Morton Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

MR/KRE

7th December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Key Stage 3 - What to expect at Morton Academy

With the abandonment of national curriculum levels and the changes to the way the government assess children in KS2 (year 6 SATs) and KS4 (GCSE), we have created a new assessment system which allows teachers, students and parents/carers to easily track progress from year 7 to 11. This new assessment system has been designed with the new reformed GCSE qualifications in mind. Whilst most subjects studied at GCSE fall into this category there are some which are a GCSE equivalent such as NCFE and BTEC. In these subjects, your child's progress will be reported using the grading system for that qualification (pass, merit, distinction or A*-D).

1. Student's baseline KS2 scores are converted to predict the appropriate GCSE number for your child. This conversion is based on the proportions of students who achieve each grade at KS2 compared with the proportions at GCSE.
2. In KS3 and KS4 students will sit 3 assessments in each of their subjects. These assessments will be graded using a GCSE number grade.
3. The grades are age related grades. They refer to a student's position in the performance distribution for their age group. These grades do not tell you what a student would get if they took a GCSE at that moment in time.

For example, if a student gets a grade 9 in year 8 March exams, it means we think they are performing as well as could be expected for their age group. It does not mean that they would get a 9 if they sat the GCSE exam at that time.

Targets

Our default target for students is to make a +1 grade of progress over the 5 years at secondary school, and to achieve the minimum of a grade 5 – whichever is highest.

A target of +1 means that our students are achieving a grade higher than their peers with the same starting point across the national cohort.

As a grade 5 is considered to be the new 'strong pass' at GCSE, we believe every child should be striving to achieve this standard.

The heads of department and senior team moderates these targets for individual students to ensure that while they are challenging and aspirational, they are also achievable.

Points to Note

Staying at the same grade IS making progress.

You can get a grade 5 in year 7 but it means something different from a 5 in Year 11.

Assessments get harder from term to term and year to year, so that a grade 5 in Y11 represents a higher standard than a grade 5 in year 8.



In many of our subjects we award grades based on how our students are doing against their national cohort. In order to do this as robustly as possible we moderate within our school as well as externally within the United Learning family of schools.

At Morton Academy you will receive the following information each year:

- After each assessment/examination window you will be sent a copy of your child's results. In KS3 this will indicate if your child is ON, ABOVE or BELOW their age related grade.
- In KS4 this will include their current and target grade.
- Assessments will take place around December, March and at the end of the academic year.
- Each year your child will receive a full report where their teachers will measure their progress towards their age related grades, as well as indicate their attitude to learning and their effort in completing homework. This report will also include specific targets or actions that students should complete in order to help them progress further.
- Each year you will be invited in to discuss your child's progress with their class teachers. During the Parents' Evening you will have the opportunity to meet each class teacher who will be able to share with you the course content, assessment methods and any information regarding the progress of your child.

Along with these opportunities, you can also contact the Academy at any time and your child's class teacher, Form Tutor or Head of Year will get back to you.

Tutor Time

Tutor time is an important part of the daily life of a Morton Academy student:

- allows students to build good relationships with staff and peers;
- enables staff to support students with organisation skills;
- promotes a love of reading;
- encourages positive attitudes to learning;
- gives time for discussions about achievements, attendance and rewards.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7	Equipment, attendance, punctuality and achievement	Assembly	Times Tables Rock Stars	Love Reading! Library or reading time	Up for debate Oracy task based on current events
Year 8	Assembly	Equipment, attendance, punctuality and achievement	Love Reading! Library or reading time	Up for debate Oracy task based on current events	Quiz
Year 9	Equipment, attendance, punctuality and achievement		CEIAG: Careers, next steps	Assembly	Love Reading! Library or reading time





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KS3 results sent home	28 th January
Year 8 Parents' Evening	30 th January
Year 9 Reports	11 th February
Year 7 Parents' Evening	27 th February
KS3 March revision week	4 th - 8 th March
March Assessments	11 th - 22 nd March
Year 9 Options Evening	13 th March
KS3 results sent home	15 th April
Year 9 Parents' Evening	1 st May
Year 8 Reports	10 th May
Year 7 Reports	4 th June
End of year exams	27 th June - 5 th July

NGRT reading tests will also take place in January and again in July.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Rigg

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