

27th September 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Tomorrow your child will be bringing home their first report for their S3 year; please ensure you extract it from their school bag! We expect to give you feedback on your child's progress each term this year as follows:

Term 1	Report	Tues 28 th September
Term 2	Report	Fri 3 rd December
Term 3	Parents' Evening	Weds 26 th January
Term 4	Report	Weds 11 th May

A further date for your diary: on Thursday 13th January we will have a Course Choice Information Evening, when you and your child can find out about the options on offer to them for qualification courses in S4. Full details will be sent nearer the time.

We are aware that parents found our previous interim report format which only gave grades less informative; for this year, we have changed our reports from two interim (just grades) and one full (long comment) per year, to three with grades and short comments. We hope you find this helpful in understanding how your child is progressing.

Below is some information to help you understand the gradings and terms used in the report which I hope you will find useful.

As we work with pupils on recovering from the major disruption of lockdown and part-time learning, you may find there has been little progress in your child's achievement level since their last report. I am aware that the levels achieved shown in this report are in many cases lower than they usually would be at this stage of pupils' schooling. In some cases, this reflects a lack of opportunity for teachers to assess pupils in recent times; this is particularly the case in English. If, however, the teacher's comment is positive and the effort/behaviour/homework is as expected, then you should not be concerned. These show us that your child is working in a way which will enable them to make progress this year, and we will support them with a focus on essential skills and content so that they are prepared to reach their potential in their S4 exam year.

The new report format does not allow us to include a parental response sheet. However, we are always happy to be in dialogue with parents about their child's learning. If you have any queries about your child's report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Jane Partridge

Head Teacher

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Understanding your child's report

Attendance

The attendance percentage given is for attendance since 17th August. It is based on registration twice a day, first thing in the morning and after lunch; if a pupil is not in school at this time, they are counted as absent, even if they arrive later in the day. If your child has been self-isolating due to covid, but able to do schoolwork at home, the national registration system does not count this as absent. If you have any queries about your child's attendance percentage we would be happy to print their full attendance record for you and discuss it further.

We are very keen that our pupils have good attendance rates; catching up at home is no substitute for learning in class. In the current circumstances, where we live with the constant possibility of needing to go into isolation or lockdown, we are particularly keen that pupils get as much time with their teachers as they can. If a child's attendance is 90% over a school year, they will have missed 19 days of school – nearly 4 weeks. Should your child's attendance drop to 90% without reasonable explanation, we will contact parents to discuss how we can support your child to improve their attendance rate.

Effort/Behaviour/Homework

Effort	Behaviour	Homework
As expected	As expected	As expected

There are 4 categories: Exceptional As expected Needs improvement Serious concern
We would expect the majority of pupils to be "as expected"; if your child is "exceptional" they really are going above and beyond and should be congratulated. If they are rated "needs improvement" then subject teachers will be working with them to support them to improve; if there are several subjects/areas where improvement is needed, or there are serious concerns, their Guidance Teacher or Head of Year will be involved and will ensure parents are part of an action plan for improvement.

Achievement

Achievement is expressed in terms of Scottish Curriculum for Excellence levels. The report contains two pieces of information – the level which has been achieved so far, and the progress being made towards achieving the next level.

Achievement Level: 03 - Achieved Third Level

Progress between levels: Working at the beginning of the next level

The "Progress between levels" indicator tells you how close your child is to achieving the next level. There are three indicators: beginning the next level, working through the next level and nearing completion of the level. This pupil has completed level 3 and is starting level 4 work.

Please see below information on the levels we would expect pupils to achieve in S3 and how covid has affected this.

Effect of covid disruption on pupil achievement of levels

We would normally expect the majority of our S3 pupils to achieve at least level 3 in most of their subjects by the end of S3. Many pupils should be working on level 4 in S3, so that they are in a position to progress to National 5 in S4 in their chosen subjects.

In this report, it is quite likely you will see that your child has not yet achieved level 3 in some subjects, and that their levels may not have moved on significantly from previous reports. This is a result of the disruption to learning over the past 18 months. To be able to say that a pupil has achieved a level, teachers need to see evidence of the required skills. Pieces of work which would normally be used as this evidence were not completed, as teachers adapted tasks to make them suitable for pupils learning at home and focused on learning, rather than assessment, when we were able to return to the classroom. This is particularly the case in English and Maths, where multiple assessments are needed to be able to confirm that a pupil has achieved a level.

If your child is performing "As expected" in Effort, Behaviour and Homework by their teachers in this report, and the teacher comments are positive, then you should not be concerned if your child has not yet achieved level 3. Assuming that school is able to continue relatively undisrupted this year, parents should expect to see a rise in levels during the year as we adjust courses to ensure essential work is caught up on and assessments are carried out. Should we have any concerns that your child is not on track we will be in touch, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

