

12th January 2026

Hannah Rowlands, Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

We will today forward on to you via email your son/daughter's first report for this academic year. This is the first of two reports that you will receive. Within the report, alongside each subject area you will see the following information:

1. Target grade

This is **the minimum grade your child should be aiming to achieve in each subject**. Target grades are derived based upon a combination of information we have from students' key stage 2 scaled score outcomes and the Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) that were sat in Year 7. These are generally used as accurate indicators of a student's capability at GCSE. It is important to emphasise that this grade does not act as a ceiling to what your son/daughter can achieve – we will work with all students to ensure that they reach their academic potential regardless of prior attainment.

2. In class effort score

This is recorded as "Excellent, Good, Needs Improvement or Unacceptable" and the criteria for these comments are outlined below.

Excellent	Always tries their best, works hard, is attentive and contributes well.
Good	Often works hard and makes contributions, sometimes attention slips.
Needs Improvement	Can work and contribute, though can be off task and lacks attention to detail. Needs to pay more attention and make more focused contributions.
Unacceptable	Makes little or no effort, requiring close supervision for any work to be done. Makes little or no contribution in class. Progress is severely affected by lack of effort.

3. Homework

This is recorded as "Excellent, Good, Needs Improvement or Unacceptable" and the criteria for these comments are outlined below.

Excellent	Homework completed on time and to a high standard.
Good	Homework mostly completed on time and to a reasonably high standard.
Needs Improvement	Homework often is late and lacks attention to detail.
Unacceptable	Homework is rarely handed in on time, sometimes not at all and when it is done can be of poor quality.





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ACADEMY**

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4. Academic Progress band

This is recorded as “Significantly Above, Above, On Track, Below, or Significantly Below” and the criteria for these comments are outlined below. We arrive at this projection by looking at a range of information such as the work they complete in class, scores from tests or end of unit exams, homework or coursework (if relevant) and reflects the work that your child has produced so far, not the work they will do. It is difficult to accurately predict a single grade for the end of Year 11 at this stage in your child’s school journey, so we report the projected progress band that we feel is most probable.

Significantly above	They are significantly exceeding their target grade. They demonstrate a high level of understanding, produce work of an excellent standard, and continually approach tasks with focus and enthusiasm.
Above	They are exceeding their target grade, producing work of a high standard and showing a clear grasp of the key concepts taught this year.
On Track	They are achieving their target grade and consistently producing work that meets the expected standard for this level.
Below	They are currently working below their target grade and would benefit from continued focus to help close the gap. With increased effort and consistent engagement, they have the potential to make meaningful progress.
Significantly Below	They are significantly below their target grade and will need to notably increase their focus and effort to make expected progress

5. Behaviour points

The report also contains how many positive and negative points your son/daughter has received on Class Charts this academic year. This helps give an indication to how your child behaves in school. Positive points include:

- Above and Beyond
- Community
- Kindness
- Resilience & Excellence
- Lunchtime and Afterschool clubs
- Homework
- Healthy eating

Meanwhile, negative points include:

- Caution in lesson
- Referral to reset



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- No homework
- Refusal
- Serious incident
- Truancing

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We thank you for working with us to support your child in achieving academic success this year. If you have any questions about your child's report, please do not hesitate to contact tfessey@thedeanacademy.org.

Yours sincerely

Tom Fessey
Assistant Headteacher & Raising Standards Leader

TF/TW - KS3 mid year letter-120126



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