

Our ref: KJ/ar

16<sup>th</sup> November 2016

All Year 8 Parents/Carers

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, the Government has made significant changes to the National Curriculum across all primary and secondary Key Stages and to external and school based assessment relating to this.

As National Curriculum levels are no longer applicable to the new programmes of study for students in Year 7-9, schools have been instructed to find alternative methods to assess and report attainment and progress during Key Stage 3.

In September we started to use our new system of assessment without levels. Using information from Key Stage 2 tests, performance during Year 7 and in the 'End of Year' exams, we made a judgement about the band of attainment your child should be aiming for during Year 8. Each child has been placed in one of four bands of attainment for each subject:

- **Working towards** the expected standard of attainment for Year 8
- **Working at** the expected standard of attainment for Year 8
- **Working above** the expected standard of attainment for Year 8
- Working at an **exceptional standard** of attainment for Year 8

These bands of attainment are defined by a series of subject specific statements for each subject your child will study in Year 8. These statements will be used to assess students' attainment and progress through the year and will be displayed in class and in students' books.

The first Year 8 report issued today shows which of the four bands your child is currently working in for each subject and this is matched against their target band of attainment.

Before the summer holidays we will issue further information regarding bands of attainment and will share with you the band we expect your child to be working within during Year 8. In the first half of the Autumn term, we will be holding an information evening for Year 7 and Year 8 parents to provide further explanation of our new system of assessing and reporting without levels.

Yours faithfully

Kath Jordan and Siân Dover  
Joint Heads of School