

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC COLLEGE
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Dear Parent/Carers

KEY STAGE 3 ASSESSMENT

In June 2013, the government published a document for schools on 'Assessing without Levels', in which it was explained that the old system of Levels at Key Stage 3 would be abolished and not replaced.

They said the following:

'We believe this system is complicated and difficult to understand, especially for parents. It also encourages teachers to focus on a pupil's current level, rather than consider more broadly what the pupil can actually do. Prescribing a single detailed approach to assessment does not fit with the curriculum freedoms we are giving schools. The new programmes of study set out what should be taught by the end of each key stage. We will give schools the freedom to develop a curriculum which is relevant to their pupils and enables them to meet these expectations.'

As a result, at Corpus Christi Catholic College, we have developed our own system of assessment which focuses primarily on **improving the learning of our students**, and which builds on the following overarching principles:

- A move away from giving levels or grades to focusing on just giving **great feedback** that helps our students to make progress in their skills, knowledge and understanding
- A move towards charting progress relative to a student's starting point and away from simply charting attainment
- A focus on the Growth Mindset of students, especially resilience
- Ongoing 'Assessment for Learning' in Years 7, 8 and 9 - this helps us to check the progress of students and to if see they are on-track
- To quickly identify and support students who are struggling or falling behind in their learning. We can put an appropriate intervention in place to help them get back on track.

To ensure this system is effective for our students and their parents/carers we need to do the following:

- All students will be set a 'silver' target in each subject area. Students' Key Stage 2 data (or, for some subjects, a baseline test) will be used to set this provisional target for Year 11. We can move these targets up if our students show that they are consistently aiming higher.
- At three points in the year, teachers will use their professional judgement to say if a student is:

Gold – *Aiming higher than their target*

Silver – *On track to their target*

Bronze – *Working towards their target*

NA – *There are progress concerns (Not Achieving)*

These progress measures will be reported to parent/carers at three points during the year:

	Year 7 and Year 8	Year 9
1	23 rd November 2017	18 th January 2018
2	16 th March 2018	23 rd April 2018
3	20 th July 2018	20 th July 2018

At Corpus Christi Catholic College, we have a deep trust in our expert staff of teachers and support staff and our assessment model reflects our trust in their expertise. We are always open to refining what we do and listening to the needs of parent/carers. If you would like to be involved in shaping our 'reporting system' please come along to one of our parent forums.

Over time, we hope that the national picture, with regards to assessment and qualifications, becomes clearer for parent/carers and teachers alike but in the meantime be rest assured that we have a high quality assessment model for your children at KS3.

We have high expectations and will continue to inspire our students to 'Go for Gold' and reach their aspirational targets at the end of Year 11.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Student Progress Leader.

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to working with you to ensure your child achieves their true potential.

Yours faithfully

Mrs D Mitchell
Vice Principal