

Year 10 & 11 – FAQs on Reports

1. How have you set the target grades for my child?

Target grades are created for our students taking either Key Stage 2 (KS2) qualifications or 'CAT' data from Year 7 assessments and using a national company called 'FFT' to give us benchmarks. This company analyses the exam results from the previous year's Year 11 cohort nationally and compares them with the pupil's levels of ability in KS2 as well as looking at their gender and month of birth. These grades are input into our data analysis software – Go4Schools which allows us to compare grades with national performance indicators to ensure that the target grade set is suitable for each individual and ensures that all students are on target to make positive value added in each of their subjects so that they strive to achieve the best possible outcomes that they are capable of. The grades we use are the GCSE 9-1 grades which are comparable to the old A-G GCSE grades as per the table on the right.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6 5 Strong Pass 4 Standard Pass
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

2. Will these target grades ever change?

Possibly, yes, although not by too much. FFT and Go4Schools regularly update all of their information based upon the most recent cohort of students who have just sat exams. It will make sense, therefore, for us to review our students' targets annually in light of the new information.

3. Why do some subjects not have lettered grades?

Some pupils are studying BTEC subjects (or similar). These are usually graded as follows: Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass, U and can be at either Level 1 or Level 2. We also have a 'WT' grade which demonstrates that a student is currently working towards a '1' grade at this time.

4. What is a 'Current Grade' and how is it used to track progress?

Throughout the year students will complete assessments that are internally moderated and graded using the GCSE (or equivalent) grading criteria for that exam specification. Here at St Bernard's we use a 'Fine Grading' system which allows us to show how secure the student's grade is. A grade with a '+' after it means that the student is moving towards the next grade up, and a grade with a '-' after it means that the student has only just achieved that grade. The assessments enable students to demonstrate the relevant skills and knowledge of the latest topic and be awarded a grade in that area of work. It is important to understand this is a reflection on smaller topics and parts of the course and does not equate to a full GCSE grade but acts as an indicator to show where a student is 'working at' in a particular area of the subject.

Even in mock examinations students do not necessarily sit all papers for each subject.

5. How does the assessment system work?

The system we use with Years 10 & 11 is based upon KS3 & KS4 expected progress which is then linked directly to students' Target Grades. Students' yearly targets are calculated using pre-determined flightpaths for each subject which may look something like the table below, but will vary from student to student and from subject to subject.

Subject	Y10 Expected Progress	End of Year 11 Target
Maths	4	6
English Literature	5-	6
Religious Studies	5+	6

Current Grades can be viewed on Go4Schools in real-time as they are entered by the subject teachers and can be compared to the KS4 targets to provide a clearer picture of progress for that student at that particular time of year. It is important to remember that students are not expected to achieve their KS4 targets until the Summer Term of Year 11, but should certainly be working towards them. Regular assessments allow teachers to highlight students that are not making the expected progress towards their targets and allow for additional intervention where required.

6. What do the colours mean?

The Current Grade column is coloured according to the progress that the student is making towards their target for this academic year. Students may make further progress one term compared to another and there may be circumstances beyond their control throughout the year. Keeping the end goal in sight allows students to personalise their progress journey. This colour system is designed to highlight where a student may not achieve their target for this academic year. The colours are allocated as follows:

'Purple' or 'Above Target' is populated automatically if the predicted grade is graded at 2 fine grades or more above the KS4 Target.

'Green' or 'On Target' is populated automatically if the predicted grade is graded the same as the KS4 Target or one fine grade either side.

'Yellow' or 'Below Target' is populated automatically if the predicted grade is graded between 2 and 4 fine grades below the KS4 Target.

'Red' or 'Well Below Target' is populated automatically if the predicted grade is graded 5 or more fine grades below the KS4 Target.

Example of Fine Grading
6
6-
5+
5
5-
4+
4
4-
3+

7. What is ATL and why is it important?

At certain points throughout the year subject teachers will be asked to provide an 'Attitude to Learning' grade for each student from a list of 4:

1. Student typically shows very high levels of engagement, courtesy, collaboration and cooperation. An excellent, enthusiastic attitude to learning is shown through exemplary behaviour and application to classwork and focus in lessons is excellent.
2. Student is typically considerate, respectful and courteous to staff and other students. A good and positive attitude to learning is shown through good behaviour in lessons: classwork will always be completed and to a good standard. Focus in lessons is good.
3. Student may need prompting to respond to a teacher's direction in class. Classwork may only be partially completed. Focus and attitude in lessons requires improvement.
4. Student's lack of engagement and focus impacts more than occasionally to reduce learning. Classwork will often be incomplete. Focus in lessons is unsatisfactory.

These scores should help you to closely pinpoint where any issues may be occurring with your child whilst they work towards their target grades. These will usually be the first columns that we look at when mentoring students before any reference is made to targets, as experience tells us that attitude to learning is key in progress and achievement.

8. My child has received a '3' or '4' for ATL in all of their subjects, should I be concerned?

You are right to be concerned. The report enables you to establish whether there are common areas of concern from each of your child's teachers and help you support your child to move forward positively. The aim of this measure is to ensure that students are aware of the high expectations that we have set in school and encourage them to demonstrate the high levels of engagement and application expected of them – which many of our students already do consistently. The first port of call if you have any concerns, is to the subject teacher, however if you have a more general concern then please contact the Head of Year. This will allow the school to work with you to determine any support that could be put in place to help your child improve. This could range from organisational support, to behavioural conversations and encouragement to act upon feedback.

If you have any questions regarding KS4 reports, please feel free to speak to subject teachers or the Head of Year.

9. Will reports be posted home?

No, reports have now gone online using Go4Schools and this gives you real-time access to your child's progress. You will receive an email when a specific new report is available for you to view.