



March 2023

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This letter is to flag some key messages to you in relation to Sixth Form provision here at NLS.

## MOCK EXAMINATIONS, REPORTS AND DATA

I am pleased to inform you that the next report of the academic year, which contains information on student performance to date, is ready to be published on Go4Schools. As soon as the report is available, in the afternoon of Friday 10 March, you will receive an automated email from Go4Schools with a link to your child's report. Click on the link, log into Go4Schools and the report will appear on screen. Alternatively, log into Go4School on your web browser and click on the Reports section – you will then see the report and can click to open it. Please note reports are not viewable in the Go4Schools app. As we progress through the year all reports will remain available on Go4Schools for your reference.

The data reported takes the form of:

- The **main target** which was created using KS4 data by an external target setting company called ALPS. These are based on challenging our students to make progress in the top 25% of students with the same starting points nationally.
- The **progressive target band** be the same as the main target grade to begin with, but if a child exceeds their main target grade, then they will be set a number more challenging progressive target.
- **Current Grade** – this will indicate the grade that the teacher is predicting your child to get at the end of the course, based on the range of evidence to date and the assumption that they continue to work in the same manner. It will utilise the same possible grades as can be awarded at the end of the qualification.
- **Progress against main target** - this will be a worded descriptor explaining how the current grade compares to the main target in each subject. This will be either Above target, In-line with target, Below target or Well below target.
- **Attitude to Learning** – this is a worded descriptor that indicates whether a student demonstrates the necessary behaviours and attitudes to be a successful learner. For each subject they will be given one of the following descriptors Outstanding, Good, Improvement Required, Cause for concern.

The current data reported at each cycle is the most accurate reflection given the work completed in the course so far. Given the varying nature of all subjects, these grades may fluctuate each cycle.

To view more detailed information about target setting, assessment and reporting, including how you can support your child following each data cycle please go to the [Assessment and Reporting](#) page of the school website.

In the event of a subject specific issue or concern, the subject teacher or subject leader should be contacted in the first instance. Staff do not provide written report paragraphs but you will have

opportunity to meet these staff during the course of the year at the subject evening scheduled for your child's year group. Go4Schools contains regular information on rewards and consequence and your child's exercise books or files will have any written feedback given by staff with actions for improvement.

We do encourage you to contact staff earlier if you have any questions or concerns. If there are wider concerns across a range of subjects the form tutor is a more appropriate first contact. The names of all staff working with your child are available on Go4Schools and all contact details are on the [Meet the Team](#) section of the website.

## WHOLE SCHOOL LITERACY

The role as Head of a Sixth Form is a key post for my – and one which I am delighted and privileged to hold – but I also have a range of other whole-school responsibilities. This includes whole-school literacy. This week I have been in to the assemblies across all year groups and colleges to promote student awareness around our school's definition of literacy. This is an holistic definition summarised as:

1. 4 modes of language: reading, writing, speaking, listening
2. 3 levels of language: word, sentence and text level

I have illustrated to students the sort of things which this entails across the curriculum. For example:

- teaching technical terms awareness as a word level skill
- offering sentence starters to support confidence and ability in verbal and written communications
- provision of scaffolds for constructing essays or showcasing decoding practices to understand the reading of whole texts

*There is explicit in-class branding so students see the connectivity and coordination across the curriculum as it is important to reinforce these skills and knowledge bases which are so crucial to all subjects.*

To raise awareness, I am also looking to develop a website page.

## PARENT CONSULTATIONS

It is great that so many parents have signed up to the forthcoming Y13 Parent Evening – Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March.

If you are yet to sign up, please do so this weekend – we recognise Y13 are young adults usually capable of driving their own learning and that parents lead busy lives but it is of greater value when parents are able to attend.

Information around the Y12 Parent Evening will follow in due course.

## UNIVERSITY AND STUDENT LOANS

While Y13 have nearly completed their UCAS process, Y12 will experience a launch of the process later this academic year.

NB: For 2023 (and Y13), the Student Finance England (SFE) applications are now open. This week, in Tutor Time, students are being signposted to apply for their loans as part of this process and parents should receive an email requesting details to support the application. Please be aware the window closes in May and should be proactive in ensuring students have applied.

Students in either year group and their parents may well be interested in the below.

Despite most prospective undergraduates opting to take out a student loan, evidence shows that few understand how these loans work and how the repayments work once they finish their studies.

External agencies have created materials aimed at those living in England and considering or applying to start in higher education from this August. The purpose is to help answer any questions students may have, and to help them get the facts.

The resources include:

- a short explainer video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhNtd2p-kwY>
- the 'understanding student loans' guide, which can be viewed online or printed
- frequently asked questions (FAQ), that are online only

The resources can be downloaded at Student Loans Company practitioner site:

<https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/exchange-blog/2023/february/plan5governmentinformation/>

*Please note that NLS is not responsible for the content of these websites and suggest them in good faith.*

## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

We are delighted that so many students in the Sixth Form are rising to the challenge of the leadership opportunities offered to them. In the week upcoming, our student College Leaders will be supporting Y7 and Y8 with a college-based series of experiences aimed at cementing their affiliation with Manor, Blackdown, Binswood, Croft or Park. Additionally, they are organising an inter-college quiz for students in lower year groups.

Last term, our excellent Equality and Diversity leaders (Issy and Jodie) offered a fantastic video which they created and which marked our coverage of LGBTQ+ Month. It was very informative and dovetailed with tasks they developed and which were made available in the whole school as part of the Tutor Time curriculum, experience.

## **YEAR 13 PARENT VOICE**

As you know from previous, the parental voice for Y12 students was extremely positive, reflecting as it did on the transition in to the Sixth Form here at NLS. We will soon be extending what is effectively an 'exit point' parent voice opportunity for those who have children in Y13. Details for follow.

Moreover, though, please recall that parents can contact us in the Sixth Form at any point – see the Meet the Team link listed above.

Yours sincerely

S A Taylor (Senior Assistant Head-teacher – including Head of Sixth Form).