



**Hellesdon High School
& Sixth Form Centre**

Enjoy | Achieve | Succeed

**A Parents' Guide to
Progress in Year 9
2019/20**

Welcome to Year 9!

This booklet has been produced as a guide for you to support your children as they begin their journey towards GCSE examinations. It includes information about progress, assessment and reports in Year 9, and hopefully will answer some of the questions that you may have.

As we all know, high school can be an exciting and challenging time for your child as they are studying new subjects, and being asked to produce work at a standard they have probably never done before. This booklet can help with some of the important dates, useful contacts and advice about the year.

We wish you every success in these important years at high school, and urge you to seek help from all members of staff as and when you need it. There are many ways in which we can support you.



Mrs Emma Webb

Assistant Principal, Progress and Achievement

Working together is the best way to ensure that your child achieves success at Hellesdon. This booklet explains how we will communicate with you about how well your child is getting on. We aim to provide:

1. Clear, frequent, straightforward information.
2. Regular opportunities to listen and talk.

We will do this by:

- ✓ A Head of House Information Evening at the start of the year.
- ✓ A Parents' Evening with subject teachers to discuss your child's progress.
- ✓ Communication pathways with your child's Form Tutor and Head of House, plus Heads of Department and subject teachers.
- ✓ An Options Evening in Year 9 - an opportunity to learn more about the subjects available from Year 10 onwards, and discuss choices with subject teachers.
- ✓ Use of the SIMS Parent App, which will give you secure online access to your child's progress information, behaviour record, achievement points and attendance lesson by lesson.
- ✓ Three progress reviews per year from each subject teacher. The next section of this booklet explains what a progress review contains.

Each progress review will give you information about...

1. Attendance

Regular attendance at school has the biggest impact on your child's chance of success in school. We expect all students to aim for **100% attendance**. It is a legal requirement that we have an accurate record of each student's attendance and the reasons for any absence.

Look at how the following attendance can affect your child's education:

Attendance	Over a fortnight, your child has missed...	Over a school year, your child has missed...	Over 5 years, your child has missed...
95%	½ day	1¼ weeks	½ a term
90%	1 day	4 weeks	½ a school year
85%	1½ days	6 weeks	¾ a school year
80%	2 days	7½ weeks	1 school year
75%	2½ days	10 weeks	1 school year + ½ term
70%	3 days	11¼ weeks	1 school year + 1 term

Holiday requests will not be authorised by the school as a legitimate reason for absence.

Your child's progress review report will tell you your child's attendance up to this point (as a percentage).

Attendance percentage is explained below:

97 - 100%	This is good attendance and it will have a positive impact on your child's progress and achievement in school.
96%	Progress and achievement are starting to be negatively affected.
91 - 95%	Progress and achievement will be negatively affected. The Attendance Team will be closely monitoring and offering support to help your child's attendance improve.
90% or below	Progress and achievement will be seriously affected. Frequent absence is a severe barrier to learning. The Attendance Team will be working closely with you and your child.

2. Attitude to Learning: Ready, Respectful, Safe

ALWAYS	USUALLY	SOMETIMES	RARELY
Your attitude to learning shows that you are always ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are usually ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are sometimes ready, respectful and safe.	Your attitude to learning shows that you are rarely ready, respectful and safe.

You show that you are **ready** for learning when you:

- arrive to each lesson on time
- wear your uniform correctly
- have the correct equipment for each lesson
- complete homework to a good standard
- act on advice given to improve your work
- are well-motivated to learn

You show that you have a **respectful** attitude to learning when you:

- take pride in your work
- complete all classwork to a good standard
- are respectful towards staff
- are respectful of the learning of others in your class

You show that you are **safe** when you:

- follow all instructions given, first time
- behave safely during the lesson
- act responsibly towards others
-

We expect all students to be **ALWAYS** ready, respectful and safe.

We do not expect students to be sometimes or rarely ready, respectful and safe, and these grades will trigger intervention from us.

3. Test scores

Progress reviews 1 and 2 will show the percentage that your child achieved in the most recent knowledge test for this subject.

You will be able to judge your child's performance against the average for the year group (the percentage of the middle child in the year group) and against the 90th percentile (the percentage of the top 10% of the year group).

In the second progress review, you will also be able to compare this with your child's percentage in the last test for the subject. Please remember that the tests are likely to have been on different topics, and so scores may fluctuate up or down. If you are concerned, please contact us.

4. GCSE grade ranges

Your child will receive a GCSE minimum expected grade range and current working grade range at the end of Year 9 (progress review 3) for subjects that they will be continuing with in Years 10 and 11. This will be a range of three GCSE grades: for example, a range of grade 5-7 in Year 9.

This grade range will gradually narrow to two GCSE grades in Year 10 (for example, 6-7), and single grade at the beginning of Year 11 (for example, 7).

The reason for this is to reflect the challenge of accurately assigning a single GCSE grade early in the course, as not all of the knowledge and skills will have been taught at this stage. It is also hoped that the grade range will help students to see their progress towards an end of Year 11 target grade more positively.

GL Assessments

In Year 9, your child will complete some externally-marked assessments (GL Assessments) in English, Maths and Science.

These tests allow us to monitor progress in these core subjects, provide us with accurate information about your child's current strengths and weaknesses to support the teacher's own judgements, and allow a comparison against national performance.

You will receive a report explaining your child's results in English, Maths and Science at the end of Year 9.

The GL Assessment Parent Reports will show a line which indicates your child's performance. The longer the line, the better they have performed in the test. The box represents the national average.

What should I do with these reports and assessments?

- ✓ Please take the time to read through the assessments and reports with your child.
- ✓ Try to highlight areas of strength and those areas that perhaps need improving.
- ✓ Think about some possible questions you may like to ask at parents' evening.
- ✓ If you are concerned, contact the relevant member of staff at the school to seek clarification.

And finally, praise and encourage your child for the successes that they have achieved. Self-belief is extremely important to any child.

2019/20 Academic Year:

Useful Information

Head of House Information Evening for Year 9 parents	Thursday 19 th September 2019
Progress Review 1	Week commencing 3 rd February 2020
Options Evening	Thursday 27 th February 2020
Progress Review 2	Week commencing 20 th April 2020
Year 9 Progress Exams	Week commencing 27 th April 2020
GL Assessment progress tests	Weeks commencing 8 th and 15 th June 2020
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Thursday 18 th June 2020
Head of Snowdon House	Mr Stephen Gray
Head of Nevis House	Mrs Alison Smith
Head of Olympus House	Mr Vaughan Stevenson
Head of Everest House	Miss Leah Perry-Warnes
Head of Fuji House	Mr Dan Rayner
Assistant Principal, Progress and Achievement	Mrs Emma Webb
Assistant Principal, Behaviour and Attendance	Miss Ina Coubrough
Attendance Support	Miss Julie Mollicone
Information, Careers and Guidance	Mrs Rosemary Warnock