



**Hellesdon High School
& Sixth Form Centre**

Enjoy | Achieve | Succeed

A Parents' Guide to Progress in Year 10

Welcome to Year 10!

This booklet aims to help you support your child through this important year. It includes information about progress reviews and important dates through the year, and hopefully will answer some of your questions.

This year, your child will begin studying two additional option subjects. These are the two-year options that students chose in Year 9, and they will continue for the final two years of school.

Year 10 is a crucial year for progress in GCSE subjects, particularly as any coursework is likely to be completed and assessed by the end of this year. We would be very grateful if you could encourage and help your child to keep up with internal deadlines.

I wish you and your child the best of luck for Year 10 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.
- ✓ Three progress reviews during the year from each subject teacher. All data will be available through the SIMS Parent App.
- ✓ A Parents' Evening in January with subject teachers – an opportunity to talk about progress, coursework, exam preparation and any questions you may have.
- ✓ Communication pathways with your child's tutor, Head of House, Heads of Department and subject teachers. Planners, exercise books and homework can also be used to monitor progress.
- ✓ Use of the SIMS Parent App, which provides secure online access to your child's assessment results, achievement points, attendance lesson by lesson and behaviour marks.

Progress reviews 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. Student Minimum Expected Grade Range

Your child's minimum expected grades were reported as a range of three grades in Year 9. In Year 10, this minimum expected grade range narrows to two grades.

For example:

Year 9	Minimum expected grade range 5-7
Year 10	Minimum expected grade range 6-7
Year 11	Minimum expected grade 7

As you can see, the highest grade in the range will be your child's minimum expected grade in Year 11.

The reason for using a grade range is to reflect the challenge of accurately assigning a single GCSE grade before Year 11, 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 minimum expected grade more positively.

4. Current Working Grade Range

Just like the student target grades, current working grades will also be reported as a range of two GCSE grades in Year 10.

This range of two grades is the current standard of work that your child is producing. It will take into account the work that they have produced so far or are working towards at present. It is a teacher assessment and will be informed by:

- ✓ any exam results;
- ✓ any module results or resits;
- ✓ any coursework or controlled assessments completed;
- ✓ current class work;
- ✓ homework tasks.

GCSE-equivalent courses

GCSE equivalent courses (such as Cambridge Nationals, VTCT and BTEC) are graded on a scale of pass, merit, distinction and distinction*.

Because there are fewer grade points for these courses, the minimum expected and current working grade will be reported as a single grade from the start of the course (rather than as a range).

A note about GCSE Combined Science

Combined Science is two GCSEs rolled into one qualification. Students studying Combined Science will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics but they won't cover quite as much content as those students sitting separate sciences.

Combined Science students will get an award consisting of two equal or adjacent grades from 9 to 1 (e.g. 9-9, 9-8, 8-8 through to 1-1), and it will count as two GCSEs when students apply for apprenticeships, sixth form, or university. If the grades are different, the highest number will always be on the left.

In Year 10, students studying Combined Science will have their current working grade reported as a range of two GCSE grades, just like other subjects. It is not possible to accurately predict the two grades before the final examination.

Progress Rates

Students will progress at different rates in different subjects. It may not be possible to achieve the very highest grades until the subject content required is covered in class. This should be considered when comparing current working grades and minimum expected grades.

The following ‘thermometer’ colours will show you how the current working grade range compares to the minimum expected grade. Red represents ‘hot’ (i.e. above minimum expected), and blue represents ‘cold’ (i.e. below minimum expected):

Exceeding minimum expected grade range
Meeting minimum expected grade range
1 grade below minimum expected grade range
More than 1 grade below minimum expected grade range

What should I do with the information I receive at each progress review?

- Please take the time to read through the assessments 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 and positive self-esteem is extremely important for any child to make progress and achieve.

When will the exams start?

Your child will be involved in coursework and controlled assessments in Year 10, both of which will count towards their final grade. Some courses also have real examinations in Year 10, and these begin on Monday 11th May 2020.

Progress examinations for all Year 10 students will begin on Monday 22nd June 2020.

What happens if my child falls behind?

Subject teachers will monitor your child's progress throughout the year. Should they fall behind with classwork or coursework, their tutor and the relevant Head of Department will be informed.

If the situation cannot be resolved quickly, your child will be expected to attend an academic support session, which runs every week on a Thursday after school. Attendance at the support sessions is then compulsory, and non-attendance will be followed up in line with the school behaviour policy.

Help!

We really do appreciate how challenging this year can be for students (and their families) so we have a number of specialists within school who can assist with any issues:

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
Attendance Support	Miss Julie Mollicone
Information, Careers and Guidance	Mrs Rosemary Warnock
Exams Officer	Mrs Sue Gurney
Assistant Principal, Progress and Achievement	Mrs Emma Webb
Assistant Principal, Behaviour and Attendance	Miss Ina Coubrough

2019/20 Academic Year:

Useful Information

Academic Support:	Every Thursday from 3-4pm
Head of House Information Evening:	Thursday 19 th September 2019
Progress Review Point 1:	Week commencing 25 th November 2019
Year 10 Parents' Evening:	Thursday 16 th January 2020
Progress Review Point 2:	Week commencing 9 th March 2020
External Exam Summer Series:	Monday 11 th May until Wednesday 24 th June 2020
Progress Review Point 3:	Week commencing 15 th June 2020
Year 10 Progress Exams:	Week commencing 22 nd June 2020
Work Experience Week:	Week commencing 13 th July 2020