



**Hellesdon High School
& Sixth Form Centre**

Enjoy | Achieve | Succeed

A Parents' Guide to Progress in Year 11

Welcome to Year 11!

I would like to start by congratulating you and your child on reaching this important year in your child's educational journey. Remember we are here to help in any way we can, so please let us know if you feel you need some additional support as the exams approach.

Your child will complete two sets of pre-public exams in Year 11, and these are a crucial step in preparing for the summer. Please encourage your child to revise thoroughly for these exams, as this is the best way to ensure success later in the year.

The summer exam series for most subjects begins on Monday 11th May 2020, although some subjects (e.g. Art) have practical exams earlier than this. Your child will receive a detailed examination timetable from our Exams Officer, Mrs Gurney, closer to the time. The last date of any external exam is Wednesday 24th June 2020.

Finally, this is an important year for thinking about next steps, and there are several events designed to introduce you and your child to our Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing you there.



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.
- ✓ Two progress reviews during the year from each subject teacher. All data will be available through the SIMS Parent App.
- ✓ Two Parents' Evening in December and March 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. Minimum Expected Grade

Your child's progress review will show a minimum expected grade for each subject. This has been based on the levels your child achieved in the Key Stage 2 SATS exams in Reading and Maths from Year 6 (their last formal, external assessment). The table below shows how they link:

Year 6 SATS Level in Reading and Maths	Minimum target grade at end of Year 11
6	8,9
5	7
4	6
3	4,5
2	3

4. Current Working Grade

This grade shows 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.

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.

Progress Rates

Students will progress at different rates in different subjects. Due to the nature of how subjects are delivered, 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 compares to the minimum expected grade. Red represents 'hot' (i.e. above minimum expected grade), and blue represents 'cold' (i.e. currently below minimum expected grade):

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

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 each 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, controlled assessments and practical exams throughout Year 11, all of which will count towards their final grade.

The formal summer series of examinations begins on Monday 11th May 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 Tuesday 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

Director of Sixth Form

Mr Richard Taylor

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 Tuesday from 3-5pm
Head of House Information Evening:	Thursday 19 th September 2019
Progress Review Point 1:	Week commencing 14 th October 2019
Pre-Public Exams (Wave 1):	Weeks commencing 4 th and 11 th November 2019
Year 11 Parents' Evening:	Thursday 5 th December 2019
Progress Review Point 2:	Week commencing 20 th January 2020
Pre-Public Exams (Wave 2):	Weeks commencing 27 th January and 3 rd February 2020
Year 11 Parents' Evening:	Thursday 5 th March 2020
External Exam Summer Series:	Monday 11 th May 2020 until Wednesday 24 th June 2020 inclusive

Moving on to Hellesdon High School Sixth Form

As an 11-18 school, Hellesdon High Sixth Form is the natural choice for students when they progress beyond Year 11. We are large enough to be able to offer a wide variety of post-16 courses, at both Advanced Level and BTEC, but small enough to support and challenge all students effectively.

Present Sixth Form students are very active within the main school, for example supporting teachers, acting as mentors to younger students and helping to run sports teams. They are also part of the school house system.

Key dates:

Sixth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 30th October 2019

An opportunity to hear from the Director of Sixth Form and look around the subjects offered at A Level or BTEC. Teachers and present students are on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Guidance Interviews

January-February 2020

Every student who applies to Hellesdon Sixth Form is offered a guidance interview to discuss possible courses. Details of the Sixth Form and the application procedure are given in our Sixth Form prospectus.

A copy of this is given to all parents/carers on the Open Evening. Further copies can be obtained on request from the Sixth Form Office or downloaded from the Sixth Form area of the main school website.