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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

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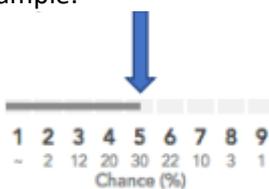
Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 7 and 8 Target setting

I wrote to you on the 8th of October to let you know that all Year 7 and 8 students would be completing a series on Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs) and this process is now complete. When a student joins Church Stretton School, they come to us with data that is taken from their previous school. This comes in the form of scaled scores out of 120 and Teacher Assessments in Reading, Writing, Maths and Science. A student's scaled score is based on the marks they achieve in their KS2 SATs (Standard Assessment Tasks). A scaled score of 100 will always represent the national expected standard. Unfortunately, the COVID 19 pandemic made the completion of KS2 SATs very difficult, and the government decided that in both 2019 and 2020 that these tests would not be formally sat by students, which was a fair and sensible decision.

This left the school with the need to assess students' potential using a standardised test, with a significant sample size to ensure the results were accurate enough for us to reliably set target grades for Year 7 and 8 based on our [Target Setting policy](#). We chose the CAT4 tests, provided by GL Assessments, as have many schools nationally. CAT4 tests are the UK's most widely used test of reasoning abilities and are standardised on 25,000 students with results verified each year. GL Assessment have also formed a strong partnership with an organisation called Fischer Family Trust (FFT) to produce subject targets based on performance in the CAT4 tests. FFT process more than 14 billion pieces of data to arrive at estimates. FFT profiles the student and produces an estimate based on what students with similar CAT4 scores went on to achieve at the end of Year 11. The estimates provided by FFT, used by many schools nationally, detail the percentage chance of the student achieving each GCSE grade from 1-9 in each individual subject.

Example:



This student would be set a target of 5 as this is the statistically most likely grade with a 30% chance. However, there is a 36% chance that he/she will get a higher grade and a 34% chance of a lower grade.

We have used this information to set targets that are aspirational and would represent progress in line with or better than the top 20% of students with similar KS2 starting points. These targets are now visible to Staff, Students and Parents on Go4Schools and an explanation of what the 9-1 grades mean can be found [here](#).

The target grades will allow us to provide you with updates on your child's progress, using the tracking system in Go4Schools, which uses a traffic light system. Red is for two or more grades below target, amber is one grade below target, and green for on target. There is a fourth colour, blue, that indicates above target (where possible).

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Staff will be carrying regular assessments and reporting currently on track for grades, which are used to indicate the grade students could achieve if they continued to work at this current level. A student's final GCSE grades could be different to these currently on track for grade, as the outcome is dependent on how a student performs in their final GCSE examinations. Further details can be found in the school's [Assessment policy](#).

The staff at Church Stretton School are committed to ensuring that all students can achieve the very best outcomes, regardless of what their target grade is and will do all that they can to ensure students meet or surpass their target grade in partnership with students, parents, and carers. We will be holding an assembly for Year 7 and 8 students on Friday 12th of November to explain how their targets were estimated and how they will be used to help students first achieve, and then hopefully surpass their target grades.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dan Bird
Assistant Headteacher