



Friday 9 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

A belated Happy New Year to you all – I hope you and your families enjoyed a lovely festive break. Year 7 students have made an excellent start to the new calendar year and it has been wonderful to see the positive attitude they are showing towards their learning as they continue to settle into life at NLS and build strong habits for the rest of the year.

As we move into a new term, I would like to take the opportunity to reinforce our World Class Basics of uniform, attendance and punctuality with our Year 7 students. Standards in all of these areas are generally very strong, and it is important that we continue to build these positive habits as students settle further into secondary school life. Wearing the correct school uniform helps to promote pride in our community and supports high expectations, and we will be reminding students over the coming weeks of what this looks like through assemblies and tutor time. Similarly, punctuality and excellent attendance are key parts of being ready to learn; students will continue to be encouraged to arrive on site before 8.45am so they can begin the school day calmly and on time for lesson 1.

Year 7 Targets

It has been fantastic to see our Year 7 students have an excellent first term, and to see how they have shown fantastic attitude to learning across the curriculum. Now students are settled into secondary school life, and we have gathered the appropriate information, we are able to set subject targets for our Year 7 students.

Today, Year 7 subject targets will be published on Go4Schools. You can see these on the app by scrolling down to the attainment section, or by logging on to the web-based version and clicking on the progress tab.

Our aim is to set aspirational targets for all students throughout their journey with us, and so we use an external target setting company called Fischer Family Trust who help us to ensure our targets challenge students to make progress in line with the top 20% of students nationally who have the same Key Stage 2 test results as a starting point.

In year 7, 8 and 9 students will have a target attainment band for each subject, called the **Main Target Band**. The target bands available are A-D and they represent journeys to the GCSE grades indicated below.

Attainment Band	GCSE Target Grades included in this band
A	Grades 8 and 9
B	Grades 6 and 7
C	Grades 4 and 5
D	Grades 1, 2 and 3

Please note: GCSE grades are awarded on a 9-1 scale. All GCSE grades are a pass at GCSE level, but a grade 4 is known as a standard pass (similar to the old Grade C) and is achieved in approx. 70% of entries nationally with NLS results exceeding 80% of all entries.

At each data cycle staff will indicate if a student is making the necessary progress at that stage in their journey to be on track for their target band, using one of the 4 descriptors below. The next two cycles will be in March and July of this academic year

Above Target
On Target
Working towards Target
Below Target

Target bands are a starting point and whilst set at an aspirational level are not a ceiling. There is always opportunity for students to demonstrate they are working above their target band, and where this happens the target band will be increased, this is known as a **progressive target band** and would also become visible on Go4Schools and future reports.

Students will receive information to support their understanding of our subject target system in assembly next week. More information if required for parents/carers can be found on the [assessment and reporting pages](#) of our website.

If you have any further questions about the target grades we use then please contact Ms Foy, Deputy Headteacher (mfoy@northleamington.co.uk)

Online Safety Newsletter

This month's Online Safety Newsletter has been published on our website and provides guidance for parents on supporting children to stay safe online. It includes advice on safe online gaming, updates on social media platforms and their safety features, and practical tips on privacy, online communication and digital wellbeing with links to further support. Online safety information is available on the Safeguarding tab on the website and you can click [here](#) also to view January's Online Safety Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend!



Mr. Butler