



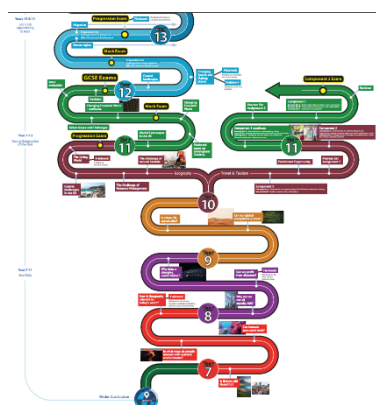
2 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Deputy Headteacher's Update – Curriculum and Assessment

A month into the school year it has been a real pleasure to see students settled into the wide variety of curriculum subjects and extra-curricular opportunities we have on offer at each Key Stage. There have already been so many highlights, and I have enjoyed visiting lessons focused on everything from 3D towns in Year 7 Maths, to creating film backing tracks in Year 8 Music. Our Year 10s and 12s have also enjoyed the start of their GCSE and A-level option courses and we have seen the launch of our new KS3 debating club.

If you want to know more about what your child has been doing this term and what is yet to come, then please remember to visit the [curriculum pages](#) in the Learn section of our website. Here you will see the curriculum learning journeys and more detailed curriculum overviews for all subjects in each year group.



Year 7 Curriculum Overview			
Rationale: The Year 7 curriculum is designed to give students an introduction to the principles of Computer Science. Students will experience a range of modules which will help them to develop their understanding of computer systems, number systems, programming and how to stay safe when accessing information online			
Term/Length of Time	Outline	Assessment/Teacher Feedback Opportunities	Homework and Literacy resources
Autumn 1	Using a Computer Students will familiarise themselves with the school network and learn how to use computers and the computer room safely and effectively. Students learn how to use OneNote for lessons. Students will understand how to be safe and responsible on the internet: fake websites, safe searching, copyright, staying safe online, cyber bullying, predators, sexting, etc. including how to report dangers.	MS Forms based end of unit assessment. Mixture of Open and Closed questions with an additional focus on keywords/literacy	Minimum homework expectation - to be set on G4S Completion of revision activity using Seneca Learning Optional homework tasks and Literacy resources Creation of revision resource (e.g. mind map) to be submitted alongside compulsory activity Complete some Bronze Award badges on the DCA Award to showcase your digital literacy and employability skills. Once complete you can move to Silver and then Gold certificates Access BBC Bitesize and research more into this topic Complete an activity on Hour of Code Watch an episode of BBC Click on the BBC iPlayer Additional Reading for Budding Computer Scientists: Choose a book from this recommended reading list some of which can be found in the department or the library
Autumn 2	What is a Computer? Students understand the differences between input and output devices including the IPO model. Students are able to recognise the key components	MS Forms based end of unit assessment. Mixture of Open and Closed questions with an additional focus on keywords/literacy	Minimum homework expectation - to be set on G4S Completion of revision activity using Seneca Learning Optional homework tasks and Literacy resources Creation of revision resource (e.g. mind map) to be submitted alongside compulsory activity

Extra-curricular opportunities can also be seen in the [student life](#) section of our website.

Thank you also to all the students who supported in curriculum areas at our Open Evening last Wednesday, we had a phenomenal turn out and the students were real ambassadors for the subject areas and the wider school.

Homework

I can see from Go4Schools that a large variety of homework tasks have been set this term for Years 8-13, that are relevant to each curriculum area. From work on Henry VIII in Year 8 History to the Power and Conflict poetry anthology in Year 10 English, and much more. Year 7 will begin to see homework appear in Maths, English and Science this half term, followed by other subjects after half term.

For students that wish to do more than the teacher set homework to extend and enrich their learning, a reminder to refer to our curriculum overviews [on the subject pages](#) in the learn section of the website. For KS3 students we also advocate regular use of SPARX Maths and for all students there are significant benefits to reading a variety of books.

All homework will be set via Go4Schools, in line with the [homework guidance](#). If you need any help with accessing Go4Schools please visit the [Go4Schools information page](#) on our website.

Target Setting

Throughout their journey with us we ensure we set aspirational academic targets for all students. To support with this we use external target setting companies who help us to ensure our targets challenge students to make progress in every subject in line with the top 20% of students nationally who have the same starting point.

The starting points they use are Key Stage 2 or Key Stage 4 outcomes as appropriate. We also take into account what we know about our students and if a student exceeds even these aspirational targets either in the previous year or within a year then we will look to challenge them further, to ensure everyone achieves their potential.

These targets will take a range of forms depending on the year group and types of courses your child is studying. More information on our target band and grading systems can be found in the [assessment and reporting guides](#) for each year group on our website.

From Monday 5th October, targets will have been updated where necessary and be visible on the progress tab of Go4Schools for all students in Years 8 – 13.

Year 7 targets will be released towards the end of the autumn term as we continue to focus this term on transition.

I look forward to seeing the many more exciting learning opportunities we will have on offer this term.

Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend

Yours sincerely

Ms. Michelle Foy
Deputy Headteacher