

Dear families & carers,

Improvements to reports, meeting staff & assessments in 2023-24

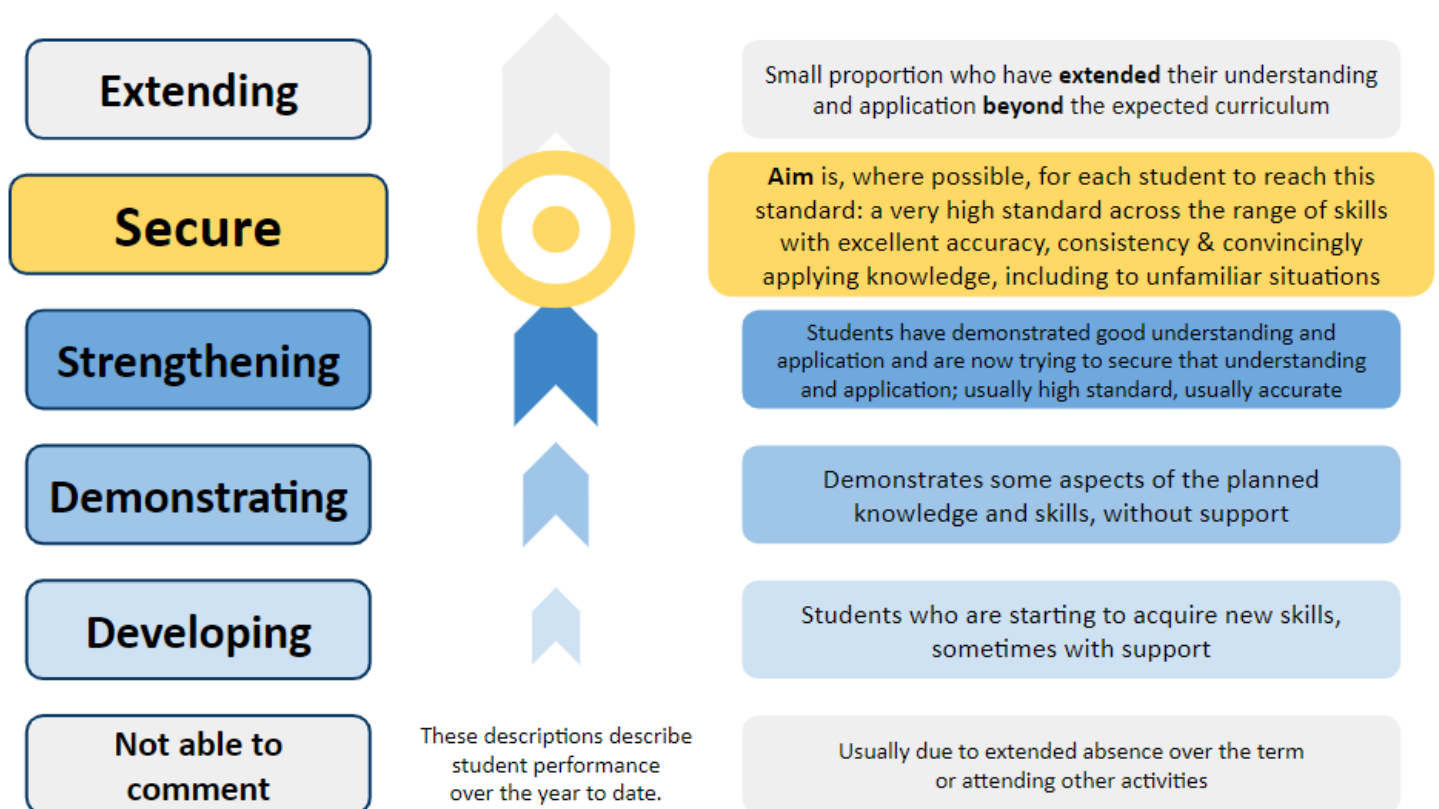
To help you better support your child's learning, and in response to parent feedback, we have made changes to reports for students this summer. Also, because of changes to the term lengths, being piloted in 2023-24, we have made changes to our programme of communication events.

Changes to Key Stage 3 Reports

The reports shared with students this week, and available on [Go4Schools.com](https://www.go4schools.com), include additional information alongside the usual approach to learning, attendance and behaviour information.

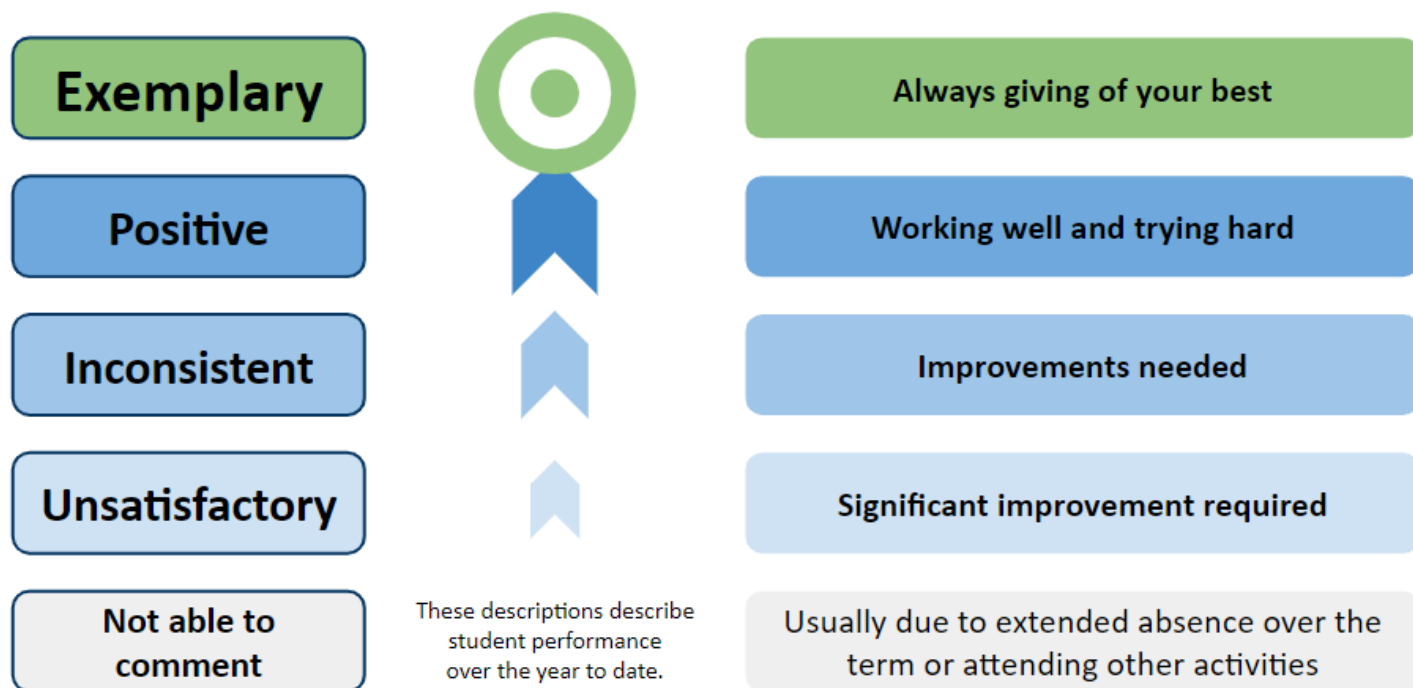
The new curriculum judgements report how well teacher's judge your child to have understood and applied their knowledge of the curriculum from September up until the date of the report. Our ambition is for the vast majority of students to have secured their curriculum understanding. Strengthening or Demonstrating, or for some students, Developing their curriculum understanding can still be good progress. For a small number of students, in some subjects, they may demonstrate knowledge and understanding which extends beyond our ambitious curriculum.

This slide used in assemblies last week, shows the levels of curriculum performance.



Attendance and punctuality to school is vital to developing the skills needed for future success in employment, examinations and further study, so we include a summary of this on each report.

We also recognise the importance of students' approach to learning, the TGS way of learning, by judgements on their approach to homework and classwork, and the awarding of positive behaviour points.



One report a year, as you have seen this summer, will also include comments summarising their learning over the year and what the most useful next steps are for students. Actions on how to accomplish these next steps are provided to students by teachers through their usual lessons and if appropriate through homework tasks.

Contacting Staff

Following any report, or at any time, please do contact your child's tutor, Head of House (who oversee academic progress for students), subject teachers or subject leaders. They would all be happy to answer your questions and provide further support to your child if required. You can find all of our contact details on the school website at www.tgschool.net/staff

Meeting Staff

For the pilot year of the shorter autumn term, there will only be one Academic Review Day, and we will be extending this year's trial of parent consultations.

Academic Review Day, 8:30 to 5 PM - Thursday 5 October

On Thursday 5 October, students with parents or carers meet their tutors for a 20 minute appointment. Students talk about their recent achievements, sharing 3 pieces of work that they are most proud of, and tutors guide a conversation to reflect on the report and set targets for the year. The meeting includes reviews of attendance, merits and any other key personal development areas. Targets are recorded by students in their planners and added to Go4Schools by tutors. The targets are reviewed and supported through academic tutoring sessions during registration and weekly priority setting in planners.

Academic Review Day is a vital part of our communication and support systems and enables a strong relationship between tutors and families to develop.

Subject Consultations, 4-6:30 PM - Y7 Tues 14 May, Y8 Tues 16 April, Y9 Thurs 14 March

In response to some parent's requests to have more opportunities to meet teachers, we are extending our programme of late afternoon subject consultation meetings.

Some staff will teach multiple classes in a year group, sometimes as many as 6 classes. This means that it is not possible for all teachers to see all students. We also want to make sure that meetings are of suitable length to

make them meaningful and allow time for discussion.

To make these meetings as helpful as possible, for students in Year 7 and 8 staff identify the students who they feel will most benefit from the consultation. We then arrange a suitable schedule for the event, ensuring that all families have the opportunity to meet some teachers.

For families in Year 9 teachers of English, Maths and Science identify teachers to meet, but for other subjects families will be able to request teachers to meet with to support discussions about suitable option courses.

If your child is in Year 10 next year then their subject consultation will be on Monday 15 January.

Unused appointment slots are made available to other parents just before the event. We will share full details of this process two weeks before each consultation evening.

Parent & Carer Forums, 6-7 PM in Assembly Hall

We greatly value the opportunity as school leaders to talk to you face to face, and to answer questions you may have about key events in your child's academic life. We call these events parent & carer forums, and for year group specific forums students may join you in coming to hear about upcoming activities and ask questions. Key Stage Forums tend to be much busier so are better suited for parents & carers only.

Key Stage 3
Key Stage 4
Y10 Revision

Tuesday 12 September 2023 & Tuesday 16 January 2024
Thursday 16 September 2023
Tuesday 7 May 2024

Each forum ends with the opportunity to ask questions of individual senior staff who attend the event to represent each area of school life.

For students in Year 9 next year, there will be the **Key Stage 4 Options Evening on Tuesday 27 February** where you can hear presentations on the choices available, and meet staff and students from each course.

More information about students' learning

As well as opportunities to contact staff, meet staff and written reports we also provide general information about students learning on our website and personal feedback and guidance in student books and planners.

Online Information

Our school website, www.tgschool.net, contains a wealth of information about each subject and key aspects of school life. Please explore this to find out about the ways that we support your child's personal development and secure their understanding across a broad and ambitious curriculum.

For example, tgschool.net/subjects lists all the subjects that we teach in years 7 to 11, and will tell you more about what is taught, how to support your child in that subject and how feedback is given. We also have an accompanying Sixth Form website at tgschool.net/sixth-form/

We also provide brief guides to our expectations for homework, tgschool.net/homework, how we provide feedback, tgschool.net/feedback.

Go4Schools is our website for information about homework, attendance, behaviour, reports, timetables and assessment information. This should provide you with up to date and accurate information. From September, if you have any questions about what you see, or can not see, please contact the relevant subject leader or your child's tutor.

Over the summer we are making some changes to our internal IT systems so please do not expect to have early access to Go4Schools before term begins. Students will receive their timetable on the first day they return in September. If they have PE on that first day then it will not be a practical activity requiring a PE Kit.

Students Books, Booklets and Planners

We also value the power of student organisation, presentation and communication so continue to use exercise books, booklets and planners to record their plans, learning and feedback. Please do use these with your child to talk about their learning and how they can improve based on the feedback given in lessons.

Our planners have been redesigned for next year, so that they can be used to record what students are reading each week. Please also continue to leave us notes about anything relating to their homework, reading or wider issues, and sign these each week.

Assessments in 2023-24

Finally, a quick summary of our planned assessment dates for each year group this coming year. To regain some teaching time from the shortened autumn term we will no longer be using annual GL Assessments.

Reading Assessments

All key stage 3 classes will complete an annual reading assessment in lessons in September. These assessments are diagnostic and used to help us best direct support in lessons, and extra activities, to help all readers develop. These are nationally standardised assessments called National Group Reading Tests (NGRT). Results from these will be available on Go4Schools.

Some students will repeat this reading assessment at various times in the year to check that they are improving and to decide if further support is necessary.

Key Stage 3 Checkpoints

We have also moved the main Key Stage 3 exams from the later summer term to spring. This provides more time for students to respond to feedback from these checkpoint assessments, and provides time for a wider range of summer activities for students.

These checkpoint assessments will take place in the sports hall for English, Maths and Science to give students a consistent experience, and develop their confidence in preparation for external exams in Key Stage 4 and 5.

Other subjects will continue to use assessments throughout the year for each topic and also testing retention of knowledge from previous units.

Following each checkpoint period you will receive a report with comments, and also then the chance to speak to some subject teachers and tutors.

Year 7 Checkpoint	Weds 17 & Thurs 18 April 2024
Year 8 Checkpoint	Tues 5 & Weds 6 March 2024
Year 9 Checkpoint	Weds 1 & 2 February 2024

Year 10 Summer Practice Exams, 17 June - 1 July

For students in Year 10 their first major set of practice exams in the sports hall take place in the summer term. Information about Year 10 exams and advice on the most effective ways to revise is shared throughout the year and supported through assemblies and enrichment days, and the parents forum on Tuesday 7 May.

A small number of vocational exams will take place during year 10, and information about these is shared by subject leaders.

Group Changes

As well as informing next steps for students, and helping them make changes and decisions for the future, these assessments are also part of the consideration for group changes.