

20 October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Praising Stars© I. Report

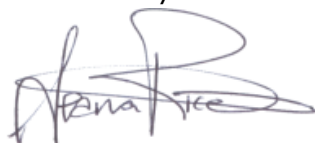
By now your son/daughter will have settled into the new academic year and we hope s/he has made a great start. Please find enclosed the Praising Stars © I. information for your child. This is a report that will be produced six times throughout the year, to ensure you are kept fully informed about progress towards challenging targets, effort levels and to flag up any concerns. In brief, the report gives you:

<u>Effort</u>	E1/E2	Outstanding/good effort – star student
	E3	Positive effort – doing most of what we expect
	E4 E5, E6	Cause for concern – may have received a C4 department detention Serious cause for concern
<u>Target</u>	This uses your son/daughter's performance at the end of Key Stage 2 to calculate what they should attain at the end of Key Stage 4. Targets are based on how students of a similar ability perform nationally in the top 5% of similar schools.	
<u>Prediction</u>	This is a GCSE grade which each teacher predicts your son/daughter will attain at the end of Year 10 or Year 11 based on their current performance and the teacher's professional judgment. If a student is studying a BTEC qualification, this will appear as: Distinction* equivalent to an A*, Distinction equivalent to an A, Merit equivalent to a B, Pass equivalent to a C, W is working towards a pass and U is a Fail	
<u>Homework/Coursework</u>	This indicates, where marked, that the teacher has a coursework concern (C) or a homework concern (H) or both (HC).	
<u>Attendance</u>	This indicates, where marked with an X, that the teacher has a concern that your son/daughter's attendance in their lessons is having a negative effect on performance and progress.	

The effort grades represent a student's effort from the first day of term until now. All students start the next Praising Stars© cycle as an E1 student in all subjects. We would be delighted if they were able to maintain this effort right through until the end of the year.

Parents' Evening one will be held on Thursday 3 November 2016 from 5pm – 7pm. Teachers may request that you come in to discuss your son/daughter's progress, and this is indicated in the report. They may also telephone. If you are not invited in and would still like to see a teacher, please contact them via the use of the Planner parents' appointment grid or alternatively ring school and leave a message to book an appointment that will then be passed on. To ensure we know you have received this report, I would be grateful if you could complete the section attached and return it to your child's VMG tutor straight after half-term if possible. This will avoid unnecessary phone calls and/or letters home to check you have received this report. Feel free to write any additional comments at the foot of the slip.

Yours faithfully



Ms Seana Rice
Vice Principal

October 2016

Dear VMG tutor

I am the parent / carer of: _____ VMG: _____

I confirm that I have received and read his/her Praising Stars© I report.

Name (Parent): _____

Signed (Parent): _____

Date: _____

Please return this slip to your child's VMG tutor straight after half-term. Thank you.

Any additional comments:

October 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Praising Stars® Reporting and the New GCSE Examination Grades

The Government have started to reform the current GCSE examination system. They are phasing in the changes over a number of years. The first examinations to be affected will be English and Maths, followed by Science, then the 'Ebacc' subjects of: Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Computer Science and finally all other subjects by 2020. We will begin reporting your child's Praising Stars® grades using the new grades where they have been reformed. The table below shows how the old GCSE grades relate to the new grades;

New GCSE Grades	9	8	7	6	5#	4	3	2	1	U	
Current GCSE Grades	A*		A	B		C#	D	E	F	G	U

#The Department for Education have now determined that a Grade 5 is a 'Good Grade' with a level 4 being the lower part of an old Grade C.

How does this affect my child in Year 11?

The only changes to your child's grades are in English and Maths which they will sit in 2017. These will be based on the number grades 9-1, all other subjects will be based on the traditional grades A*-G. Praising Stars® reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2017.

How does this affect my child in Year 10?

The changes to your child's grades will affect English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and French which they will sit in 2018. These will be based on the numeric grades 9-1 and all other subjects will be based on the traditional grades A*-G. The other options your child is studying will be examined in 2017 and will mostly be based on A*-C grades: Praising Stars® reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2017 and 2018.

How does this affect my child in Year 9?

The changes to your child's grades will affect English, Maths, Science and the Ebacc subjects of Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages and Computer Science, Art, Drama, Engineering, Food and Nutrition ICT, Music, and PE which they will sit in 2018. These will be based on the numeric grades 9-1 and all other subjects will be the traditional Grades A*-G. Praising Stars® reports will reflect the actual grades your child will receive in 2018 and 2019.

How does this affect my child in Year 7 & 8?

All your child's grades will be based on the new reformed GCSEs and will be based on the numbers 9-1.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Wappat
Principal

Outwood Grange Academies Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 06995649.

Registered office address: Potovens Lane, Outwood, Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 2PF.

VAT number: 158 2720 04. Outwood Grange Academies Trust is an exempt charity.

A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.