

Higher Tregenna  
St Ives  
Cornwall  
TR26 2BB  
Phone: 01736 795608  
01736 798474  
www.stivesschool.net



Every Child, Inspiring Learning, Every Day

# ST IVES SCHOOL

10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers

## Assessment, Reporting and Consultations 2023-24

As we review the curriculum and prepare for the new academic year, I wish to take this opportunity to share in advance key developments regarding our approach to assessment, reporting and parental consultations next year.

### Assessment Policy

The purpose of assessment is, ultimately, to help our students to learn more and remember more. Fundamentally, it enables us to understand if our students are learning what we planned to teach them. Assessment evidences how well students have learnt knowledge which has been taught recently, and how well knowledge has been remembered from previous units, years or phases.

Drawing on evidence informed practice, we have designed an assessment policy for implementation from September that will:

- Provide information to teachers about what students know, understand and can do, so that teachers can systematically plan the next stages of teaching and learning
- Provide information to curriculum leaders about the effectiveness of the curriculum and teaching, so that adaptations can be made where needed, to improve learning
- Assist students to embed their knowledge and use it fluently
- Provide information to students, parents and carers about the progress that has been made and about the next steps for learning.

Further details about our assessment policy will be available shortly through the curriculum area of the school website.

Our approach to assessment is a blended model that incorporates the following strands:

- Live assessment:** these happen in-class and provide instant feedback to teachers and students about what students know, understand and can do. In turn, this informs the next steps within the lesson, or sequence of lessons. It is expected that all students will receive live feedback across a series of lessons.

Headteacher: Mr S Horner MEng



- b. Whole class feedback:** it is expected that one whole-class feedback sheet will be used by the teacher for each class per term after reviewing student work, including home learning. Those subjects with lower contact time will not be expected to provide whole class feedback, although they may choose to do so. This will include progression mastery tasks; students will be directed to which task(s) they are expected to complete in line with their learning needs.
- c. Self and peer assessment:** this is a powerful learning tool that will be linked to success criteria and supported by the teacher.
- d. Individual feedback following bi-annual assessments:** there will be an individualised student feedback sheet built into the exam wrapper for that assessment. It will consist of the areas of strength, the areas to develop and the progression mastery tasks closely linked to the small-steps covered in that assessment.

### **Bi-annual Formal Assessments**

Next year, we have made a change and are moving from three formal assessment windows (once a term) to two assessment windows in the year, one in the Spring term and one in the Summer, for Years 7-10.

Students in Years 7-10 will complete a structured assessment each window in Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, and MFL. These contain questions from within the current unit and from past learning from the wider curriculum.

Students will not complete formal assessments in Core PE, Global Citizens, or in KS3 in Art, Performing Arts, Music, Computer Science, DT or Food Technology. Their progress in these subjects is assessed in other ways, best suited to the subjects and this will be reported home as per our reporting model.

Year 11 will be assessed outside of these windows. Students in Year 11 will take mock exams at the end of the Autumn Term. Additional mock exams will then take place during the Spring Term for the majority of subjects.

### **Reporting Home, Consultations and Information Events**

Following each assessment window, your child’s progress will be reported home through our progress reviews. The information that will be shared will include the following:

#### **At Key Stage 3 and up to term 2 Year 10:**

As the curriculum is at the heart of the progression model, for each assessment window, subject teachers will report home each student’s mastery of the curriculum: they will an area for development with the exceptions outlined above. For Year 10 students in the summer, the curriculum mastery assessment will link to current grade bands. Progress reviews will also include their attitude to learning and home learning. For Year 10 students in the summer term, progress reviews will also include the student’s target grade for each subject.

Mastery of the curriculum will be reported using the following judgements:

Emerging	A limited understanding of the curriculum content that has been covered
Developing	An understanding of the curriculum content that has been covered but with some misconceptions

Secure	Secure understanding of the curriculum content that has been covered
Advancing	Curriculum content is understood at great depth
Mastering	Curriculum content has been mastered above and beyond

**For students in Year 11 and for Year 10 students in the summer term**, teachers will report home the GCSE grade 1-9 achieved on the assessment as a 'working at' grade, plus a professional prediction 1-9 grade as well as the target grade.

### Parent and Carer Consultation and Information Events

Consultations and information evenings will take a variety of forms across the year. Following each assessment window, parents' evenings will continue to take the form of targeted parental meetings, taking place at the start of the Autumn term (based on summer assessments) and after the Spring assessments. Ideally these will be face to face, although this can be discussed with parents and carers. This applies to students across each year group.

Within this model, the pastoral team will be meeting with the parents of those students who are at risk of under-performing across multiple subjects and will explore any possible barriers and forms of support as part of an agreed targeted action plan. Subject teams will then meet with those students who are at risk of under-performing in their specific subject to discuss any barriers and to work together to set targets and identify support. In addition, the SEN team will meet with those students with SEND who are at risk of under-performing.

In addition, an Open Classroom Parents' Evening will take place for students and parents/carers in Years 7 to 9. Staff will be based in their classroom; parents and carers will be invited to come and view their child's books and to informally chat and celebrate success with their child's teacher. These will be face to face. Year 10 and 11 will have appointment-based parents' evenings, which will follow a hybrid model with online and face to face appointments offered.

A summary of events and the dates, is given below. Reminders will be sent out closer to the time of each event.

Event (Type - Face to face, online, hybrid)	Who is it for?	Date(s)
Autumn Targeted Parents' Meetings (hybrid)	Invited students/parents Y8-11	25 <sup>th</sup> September-13 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 7 Settling-in Evening (F2F)	Year 7 students and parents	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 4.30-6.00pm
Year 11 Parents Evening (hybrid)	Year 11 students and parents	11 <sup>th</sup> January 3:45-6:15pm
Year 9 Options Information Evening (F2F)	Year 9 students and parents	25 <sup>th</sup> January 5.00-6.30pm
Year 11 Revision Information Evening (F2F)	Year 11 students and parents	8 <sup>th</sup> February 5.00-7.00pm
Year 8/9 Open Classroom Parents' Evening (F2F)	Year 8 and 9 students and parents	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 4.00-6.15pm
Spring Targeted Parents' Meetings (hybrid)	Invited students/parents Y7-10	26 <sup>th</sup> February-9 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 7 Open Classroom Parents' Evening (F2F)	Year 7 students and parents	25 <sup>th</sup> April 4.00-6.15pm

I hope that you have found this overview of the approach for next year useful; please rest assured that this information will be revisited next year and will also be available via the curriculum section of the website shortly. If you have any queries about whole-school assessment and reporting, please do contact me via [kjones@stives.tpacademytrust.org](mailto:kjones@stives.tpacademytrust.org) I look forward to continuing to share curriculum and extra-curricular developments at the start of the Autumn term.

Thank you for your support and continued partnership as we work together to ensure the best quality education for your child.

Yours faithfully

Mrs K Jones  
Deputy Headteacher