Engaging minds. Nurturing success. Inspiring futures.

GOLDINGTON ACADEMY

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Dear Parent/Guardian

Assessment at Goldington Academy

The aim of this letter is to explain how assessment works at Goldington and help you to interpret your child's interim report that has been published today via the SIMs Parent App.

Following changes to the National Curriculum some years ago, the government removed the levelling system it had used for many years at Key Stage 3, and left it up to individual schools to decide on a new system that worked for them.
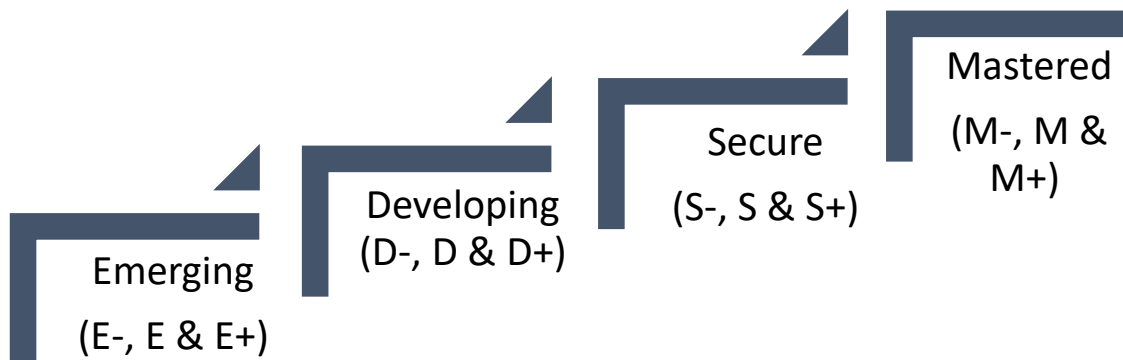
At Goldington, we adopted an assessment system that measures students' knowledge and understanding against age-related expectations using the terminology 'Emerging', 'Secure', 'Developing' and 'Mastered'. The table below shows you what each term means.

Grade	Description
Mastered	Pupil is able to use and apply knowledge, skills or understanding in a range of contexts.
Secure	Pupil is secure in their knowledge, skills and understanding within the context of teaching.
Developing	Pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding is increasing.
Emerging	Pupil is just starting to learn knowledge or skill.

With the focus of this system being on achieving age related expectations, students are challenged to apply their skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of applications, before being accelerated through new content. It is also important to understand that achievement of a skill is not simply being able to demonstrate it in the lesson it is being taught, but more about demonstrating an ongoing understanding of the concept.

As you will appreciate, the progress a child makes is not always linear: sometimes they will make huge advances in their understanding over a short period of time, yet at other times progress seems to slow. To accommodate smaller incremental steps in progress, we have broken the four main grades down into three sub-grades that indicate whether your child is near the start (e.g. 7S-), confidently within a grade (e.g. 7S) or starting to demonstrate some traits of the next grade up (e.g. 7S+).

Emerging (E-, E & E+)

Developing (D-, D & D+)

Secure (S-, S & S+)

Mastered (M-, M & M+)

It is our expectation that the majority of students will reach secure or mastered by the end of the academic year. However, there will be a very small minority of students that, due to their specific learning needs, will not be assessed on this scale at all as they are working below age-related expectations. For these students, teachers will record their attainment using the coding 7N-, 7N and 7N+.

As well as receiving teacher assessments using the EDSM system described above, your son/daughter will also have been set a target grade for each subject using this scale. These grades have already been shared with students and are recorded in the front of their exercise book for each subject.

Your child's target grades will be included in the interim report you have received, along with some colour coding to indicate whether your child is on track to achieve them. An example is shown below.

SUBJECT	END OF YEAR TARGET	CURRENT TEACHER ASSESSED LEVEL	EFFORT GRADE	BEHAVIOUR GRADE	QUALITY OF HOMEWORK
READING	Mastered -	Secure -	2	2	2
WRITING	Mastered -	Secure			
MATHS	Secure	Developing	2	2	1
SCIENCE	Secure +	Developing +	2	2	2

Colour Coding	
	Your child is on track to achieve their end of year target
	Your child, with continued hard work, should achieve their end of year target
	Your child is currently at risk of not achieving their end of year target

If you would like more details about how your child is assessed, you will find our assessment policy on the school website or, if your query is subject specific, I would encourage you to email your child's subject teacher or the subject coordinator. All staff email addresses are available on the school website: Staff | Goldington Academy

Yours sincerely

Francis Galbraith
Principal