



November 2015

Grange Avenue, Wickford, Essex SS12 0LZ
T: 01268 471201 F: 01268 474494
office@bromfords.essex.sch.uk
www.bromfords.essex.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move towards the first series of reports to parents/carers I thought it would be useful to update you on a number of key changes in assessment and marking at the Bromfords School and Sixth Form College. You may be aware that National Curriculum Levels have been discontinued from September 2015 and secondary schools have been asked to devise their own form of internal assessment for students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

At the same time, the phasing out of the A*- G grades at GCSE has also begun and students in Year 10 will be the first cohort nationally to sit exams assessed with the new 9-1 grades in English and Maths when they sit their examinations in 2017. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have all their GCSEs assessed using the new 9-1 grades when they sit their exams in the future. Current Year 11 students are the final cohort to have all their subjects assessed using the A*-G grades you will be familiar with.

You can read full details of how these changes affect each year group on our website in the curriculum section. A direct link to the page can be found here <http://www.bromfords.essex.sch.uk/Assessment>. As each year group receive their termly reports, we will send out more specific information so that you can fully understand your child's progress report.

Since September, the school has also introduced a new marking policy which should support students to make further progress. We found that students often did not make use of comments written by teachers when they received back a piece of work. We spent part of last year looking at good practice modelled in both local primary and secondary schools to see how we could improve our work in this area. As a result, you should have noticed staff using green and pink highlighters on student work, these are to highlight areas of good work (green) and work that may need improving or correcting (pink). Typically, students will be given the opportunity to correct their work in lessons using red pens. The use of the highlighters lends itself to students responding to staff marking and making immediate progress as opposed to written comments which the majority of students find difficult to respond to.

By the time you receive this letter, students in Years 10 and 11 will have received their first reports home. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will receive their first progress reports of the year on 11th December. We would very much like feedback on both the changes in assessment and marking as the year progresses. We will certainly be using our Parent Voice meetings during the remainder of the academic year to facilitate this and would also encourage you to complete questionnaires following Parent Consultation Evenings and other information evenings during the school year.

If you have any questions about any of these changes please also feel free to contact me at school.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Jochen Tree
Deputy Headteacher (Student Outcomes)

