

9 October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

At the start of the academic year students participated in a range of physical tests that the PE faculty feel are pre-requisites for good performance in physical activity and sport. These include; **speed, co-ordination, agility, muscular endurance and cardiovascular endurance.**

The data collected during these tests have been compared to normative data nationally as well as our own internal GCSE practical profiles to create a realistic yet challenging end of year practical target grade.

At the end of each unit students will be provided with a progress grade relating to their physical skills, social skills and cognitive skills. We feel that this approach is a much more inclusive method of assessing progress in PE and allows for students who are not as practically strong to be rewarded for being excellent leaders, coaches or officials.

To prevent data overload we will be reporting all of the information above in the form of a **single average grade** across all of the activities covered up to that tracking window.

Tracking Window 1 (Nov '19) – Reporting on two activities

Tracking Window 2 (Feb '20) – Reporting on six activities

Tracking Window 3 (Jun '20) – Reporting on eleven activities

The grade reported home will be an indication as to what your child could **potentially achieve** in the practical component of the GCSE course if they continued to progress at this rate.

During your Partnership Evening this year, the PE staff will be able to provide you with much more in depth information about activities your child excels in, activities your child needs to develop in as well as which strand of assessment your child needs to focus on to become a more rounded Physical Education student.

I have also attached a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document for your review.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Many thanks

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The Sutton Academy

Together Students Achieve

Principal: Mrs Alison Sherman

Our Sponsor:  **St Helens College**

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Frequently Asked Questions

Why have you not used the academic data provided from KS2 to set a Physical Education target grade like every other subject?

Physical Education is not an academic subject but a practical subject in KS3. We have found over recent years that strong academic performance does not always correlate to strong practical performance and vice versa. Therefore many students were being set target grades too high and were becoming de-motivated as the target grade was out of reach. Setting a non-academic target grade should alleviate this and provide strong motivation for students to keep working hard throughout the year.

Why is my child's target grade so low compared to other subjects?

We have primarily used the baseline tests to set students target grades. Those students with low end of year target grades are often those students who:

1. Performed poorly in the baseline assessment tests.
2. Are students that do not participate in sport outside of the Academy.
3. Are students that do not participate in the extra-curricular clubs on offer at the Academy.

Regular and sustained participation in physical activity is a vital component of our target setting in Physical Education. Those students who do not do this will not be developing the underlying skills and abilities to perform at a higher target grade level.

My child is very strong in an activity - why is it being reported that they are not on target?

It is only at GCSE level that students are expected to specialise in only a few activities. In KS3 we want to assess progress across multiple activity areas to provide you with information about your child as a rounded sports person. Just excelling in one activity is not enough to be judged as being on target. We want students to work hard in multiple disciplines to be judged as being on target – using an average grade rather than best grade allows us to do this.

Can my child's target grade change?

Yes, we recognise that over the course of a year students will develop physically, socially and mentally at a very quick rate. Therefore, at the start of each year we will re-test the students using the same tests and update the yearly target grade. We would expect to see those students who have fully participated in lessons, regularly participated outside of school in a range of sports and fully participated in our extra-curricular offer to see their end of year target grade increase.

If you do not use academic data to set a target grade how will I know if my child is suited to an examination course in Physical Education and Sport?

This is a much better method of identifying whether a student should take one of our sports courses or not. As we have completely separated the academic data from the practical data we can look much more closely at the individual grades students have received in their sports and make much more accurate assumptions of how they would perform against the GCSE practical criteria. We will then use Science grades to judge whether they have the correct academic profile to cope with the course content.