Guidance on Interims, Reports, Targets and Setting
Years 7, 8 and 9

To Parents,

Balcarras School sends out the following information for parents about pupils in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9).

- **2 Interim Reports**
- **1 Enhanced Report**

The dates for these to be issued are clearly indicated in the school calendar and spread evenly across the academic year.

The Interim Report shows how your child is developing compared to target grades. These reports form an important part of the school's regular communication with parents.

The first Interim Report for Year 7 contains Effort Grade ONLY.

All pupils should be aiming for high effort grades, which are independent of ability. Where effort grades are high, pupils deserve praise. Where effort grades are low, please do speak to your son/daughter about how they might improve their effort in the future.

If you have any queries about a particular grade, please contact the relevant Head of Department. If you have more general concerns, please contact the relevant Head of House.

Yours sincerely,

N. A. Baxter

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Deputy Head

Key Stage 3 Interim report

Effort:

The following levels may be awarded:

1* **Outstanding** effort in all areas

1 **Good** effort in all areas

2 **Satisfactory** effort all-round

3 **Improved effort required** in 1 area

4 **Unsatisfactory effort** in a number of areas

*(These effort definitions came into effect on **1st November 2023**).*

Progress:

At Key Stage 3 the following progress may be awarded

Above - Above target

A pupil's work in assessments, classwork and homework indicates they are working above their target grade

On - On Target

A pupil's work in assessments, classwork and homework indicates they are working at their target grade

Towards - Working Towards Target

A pupil's work in assessments, classwork and homework indicates they are making progress towards their target grade, but not achieving it consistently

Below - Below Target

A pupil's work in assessments, classwork and homework indicates they are consistently significantly below their target grade

(Balcarras moved to this new system of progress for Year 7 in January of 2022, and for other years in Sept 2022)

Concern:

One or more concerns may be given for effort grades of 3 or 4 in each subject.

The following concerns may be indicated

- **homework** – homework has been incomplete, late or not done
- **organisation** – organisation needs improving
- **concentration** – lack of concentration in lessons
- **talkative** – excessive talking in lessons
- **disrupts** – talking or behaviour has a negative impact on other students
- **contributions** – greater contributions to lessons required
- **punctuality** – punctuality to lessons needs to be improved
- **assessment** – work completed in controlled assessments so far is a concern
- **motivation** – lack of motivation in lessons or to catch up with missed work
- **attendance** – attendance at lessons has been poor
- **non-independent** – insufficient work has been completed outside of lessons
- **revision –** revision for examinations or tests has been poor
- **engagement –** engagement with the subject and lessons is below expectations
- **classwork –** work produced in class is below expectation

Enhanced Reports – Key Stage 3

In addition to effort and progress grades, the **Enhanced Report** contains the following information:

Classroom Qualities

Classroom qualities are ***included on the Enhanced Report only.***

Each subject will give a judgment on the five Classroom Qualities:

1. Expected standard of **behaviour and preparation**
2. **Homework**
3. **Engages** with lessons
4. Expected standard of **classwork**

Enhanced Report Only

Not on Interims

The judgments can be one of the following:

Co – Consistently

Us – Usually

In - Infrequently

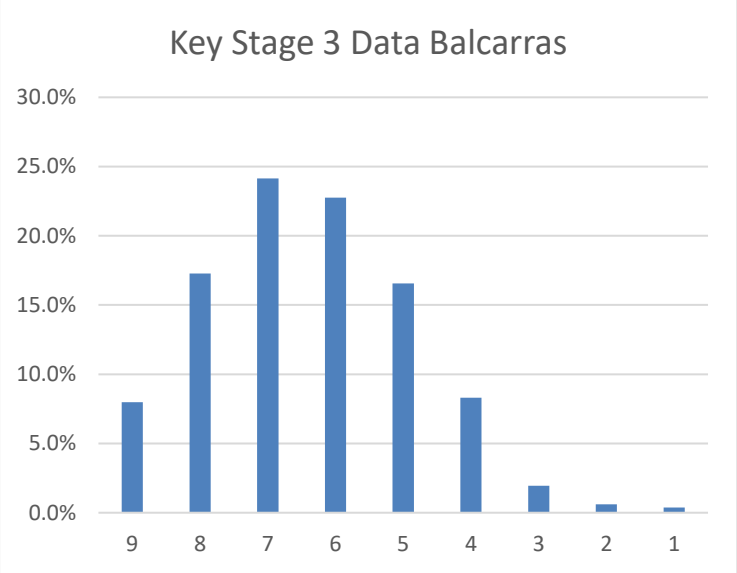
Tutor comment a paragraph from the pupil's tutor, highlighting strengths and developmental needs

Subject comments key areas, identified by the subject teachers, of strength and developmental need

"Is a Grade 5 good?"

Lots of parents want to know if a particular grade is "good".

This is a difficult question to answer and will depend on many factors. Different pupils will have different targets. The graph below shows the average Key Stage 3 Result (end of Year 9) across all subjects.



Grade 5: about **89%** of grades are 5 or above.

Grade 7: about **49%** of grades are 7 or above.

To see a full breakdown of all the GCSE and A Level results at Balcarras, view the school website:
www. Balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

- Our School
- Admissions and Prospectus
- View our General Information Booklet

Target Setting

Key Stage 3 Target

Years 7, 8 and 9

This is the target your child should be aiming to achieve each year in his/her assessments. It is based largely on the Key Stage 2 assessment results. From September 2016, Key Stage 3 targets were changed to be a numerical grade system: (**1** lowest, **9** highest). The target grade will generally remain the same in each subject until the end of Year 9 but the work will get progressively harder to ensure progress is being made. As the target is based on performance in mathematics and English results from Key Stage 2, we will review the targets at the end of Year 7 for the creative subjects, to ensure each target is stretching but achievable.

The target grade is only for Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9). For GCSE, new targets will be set at the start of Year 10.

(These targets should not be seen as a ceiling – we would be delighted if your son/daughter achieved a higher grade than his/her target grade.)

Key Stage 2 Baseline Data (not on reports, but used for setting targets)

All parents will have been given the KS2 results by their child's primary school at the end of Year 6.

National curriculum tests at the end of Key Stage 2, are administered in mathematics, English reading and English grammar, punctuation and spelling.
Scaled scores are used to report national curriculum test outcomes. All scores range between

80 to 120.

A scaled score of **100** always represents the **expected standard** on the KS2 test.

Scaled scores help test results to be reported consistently from one year to the next. Because the questions are different the difficulty of tests may vary slightly each year. Scaled scores maintain their meaning over time so that 2 pupils achieving the same scaled score in different years will have demonstrated a similar level of attainment.

A pupil's scaled score is based on their raw score. The raw score is the total number of marks a pupil receives in a test, based on the number of questions they answer correctly. The pupil's raw score is translated into a scaled score using a conversion table.

Pupils without Key Stage 2 Data

A few pupils each year arrive at Balcarras without Key Stage 2 data. This can be for a variety of reasons, sometimes because their primary school did not carry out Key Stage 2 tests. In these cases, Teachers and Heads of Department will set targets for pupils based on their performance in class, homework and any tests carried out early in Year 7 at Balcarras.

Setting

Pupils will always be assigned to a set that is considered best educationally for each pupil. A number of factors are considered when assigning pupils to sets. Primarily, performance in school assessments will be the main consideration. However, performance in classwork and homework will also be taken in to account, as will ensuring that sets have the right mix of pupils to avoid distraction. **Sets can change** during the course of an academic year. Where a pupil's results merit a change of set this will take place after careful consideration by the Head of department and the class teachers involved. Each department assigns pupils to sets according to their own criteria.