

# Plymstock School

## Progress Check FAQs

### Year 10



We know that school reports can sometimes feel a little overwhelming, especially with unfamiliar terms or new types of information. This document is here to help you make sense of what you're seeing and show how you can support your child to make great progress.

#### Expected Outcome Bands and Current Working Grades

Expected Outcome bands are guidelines which show the range of results nationally that students with similar prior attainment, typically achieve at the end of the course, with good effort and commitment to learning at the end of the course.

The Current Working Grade describes what a student **knows, understands** and **can do** based on current evidence gathered during the course. This is where your child is **right now**; based on recent assessments, classwork, homework, and teacher feedback. This is by no means the grade that students will be awarded (it is **not a predicted** grade) - this is purely what our records would indicate in terms of where a student is currently on the range of evidence that is available. **It is not unusual for the Current Working Grade to be below the Expected Outcome Band in Year 10.**

#### Rank Order Information (ROI)

We are constantly seeking ways to support students to achieve outcomes that will offer them the broadest possible choice for their next steps in education or training, and to boost motivation. Other schools using this approach have found it helps boost motivation and supports students in making positive changes. It helps you to know how hard your child is working as well as how they are performing relative to their peers (rank order information).

Initial concerns are often about potentially demotivating those who appear lower on any list. When these concerns are overcome and the information is used to seek a change in approach or improvements, no matter how large, rank order proves to be a useful and effective piece of information. It puts understanding achievement firmly back in the hands of students and parents.

To be clear, this information already exists. What we are doing is to make it available to parents, carers and students themselves.

#### What is Rank Order Information?

We already know roughly the percentage of students in England that will receive each grade in each subject when they open their results envelopes next summer. The percentage in 'normal years' (that is, years not affected by a global pandemic or measures to bring standards back into line) varies very little. **What we don't yet know and can still change is which grade each student gets in each subject.**

The contents of the results envelope will show the result of a combination of factors:

- The quality of the curriculum and the teaching and learning that takes place.
- The effort and conduct of students in lessons and in school in general.
- The time students spend on learning independently completing homework and revision.
- The amount of time they spend in lessons in school.
- The seriousness with which they approach their studies.
- The additional work they ask for or the questions that they ask as a result of something they'd like to understand better.

Rank Order Information is the process of averaging judgements about effort, conduct and independent learning in order to demonstrate the effort, conduct and independent learning of students at Plymstock School compared to the other students in their year group.

### **What does Rank Order Information look like on the Progress Check?**

Rank order information appears throughout the Year 10 Progress Check. Students are ranked for a variety of data, including assessment percentages, commitment to learning, achievement points, behaviour points and Sparx completion rate. It is important to note that Sparx homework is only counted as complete if it is 100% completed. Anything less than 100% counts as not completed. Students are ranked from number 1, which is the best ranking, to **270**, the number of students in the year group.

Providing ROI is about giving students the responsibility, motivation and determination to change their outcomes whilst they still can.

### **What happens if a student is ranked at the bottom of the year group?**

We have found that the students who find themselves at the bottom of the rank order are often those who miss lessons persistently or who have poor engagement in lessons and independent work. These students may already be receiving support for their attendance or behaviour and this data will enable us to accurately measure the impact of this. All interventions will be monitored through this process.

### **My child has special education needs – will this affect their standing in the year group?**

A special educational need does not automatically mean that a child will perform less well than their peers. They may have some additional barriers to overcome but each year we see children with SEND outperform children without additional needs.

### **How, as a parent/carer, can I support my child with Rank Order Information?**

As parent/carer, you can support immeasurably by encouraging a positive attitude to learning, independent work at home through homework and ensuring excellent attendance. Students who consistently display positive learning behaviours and commitment are far more likely to improve their rank order within the school and will therefore be rewarded by their academic progress.