

# MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

## Prompts for tutors

Highest

Rating Scale

Lowest

### 1. Get focused

**“I work hard and really believe I can get better.”**

This is the foundation for many students who make great progress.

#### Key Questions:

- How organised and conscientious are you in the way you approach your work?
- How determined are you to succeed?
- How well do you concentrate when working in school or at home?
- Will you go that ‘extra mile’ and do extra work or revision when you need to?

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### 2. Accept and enjoy the challenge

**“I love it when the teacher sets a challenge and to see if I can do something harder than usual.”**

Learning is rarely straight forward and so you will come up against obstacles and difficulties.

#### Key Questions:

- How do you usually react when you are asked to do something harder than usual?
- Are you often prepared to work outside your ‘comfort zone’?
- Will you sometimes take the harder option when given a choice?



### 3. Build on your strengths, work on your weaknesses

**“I would rather know and be honest about how I am doing – if I’m not I won’t get any better.”**

You know probably better than anyone what you can do and what you find more difficult. Being honest and realistic about your strengths and weaknesses is a key part of the learning process.

#### Key Questions:

- How often do you reflect on your work and pin-point the things you need to work more on?
- How often do you tackle some of the harder pieces of work when you are fresh rather than leaving them until last?
- How often do you look at model answers and use peer and self-assessment to identify the aspects you need to work on?



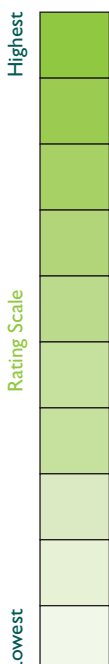
### 4. Learn to work on your own

**“I like to put my own thinking into my work – I want the mark I get to be my mark!”**

Sometimes you just need to spend some time on your own to see if you can ‘get your head round’ what you are doing. You also need to know what to do if you get stuck.

#### Key Questions:

- Are you happy to work on your own at school as well as at home?
- How prepared are you to sort out things for yourself and use books and computer web-sites to help you?
- What self-help strategies do you have that work well for you?



### 5. Get the most out of working with others

**“I like to work with a partner so that I can bounce ideas off him and argue about our answers.”**

Learning is often much better when you do it with others. Talking about your ideas and comparing approaches can really help you to improve your understanding.

#### Key Questions:

- How do you get on when you are working with a group?
- Do you listen and make contributions?
- Do you try out your ideas and understanding on your friends and compare their approaches with your own?
- Do you do any peer assessment and use this to help your own learning?

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Rating Scale  
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## 6. Stay positive, don't give up

**"In my mock in Year 9 I was way below my target level. I was determined to do better and in my real test I beat my target level by two sub-levels!"**

You need to be resilient. There will be times when things are just not working for you in certain subjects. Overcoming these difficulties can be a real turning point and help you if it happens again.

### Key Questions:

- How do you react when your results are not as good as you'd expected them to be?
- If you don't achieve your target grade this term how do you feel about next term's target?
- How good are you at pulling yourself out of a bad patch?

Highest  
Rating Scale  
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## 7. Be ambitious for the future

**"I'm motivated by the future not just today."**

Many students are motivated if they know what they want to do when they leave school. You don't need to have a definite career in mind but it can be helpful to have some idea of what your work in school might be leading to and whether you are on track to achieve your aim.

### Key Questions:

- Do you have any idea of what you would like to do when you leave school?
- What qualifications are you likely to need to achieve your aim?
- How far do you feel you are on track to achieve your aim?

Highest  
Rating Scale  
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## 8. Follow your interests, develop your talents

**"I am really passionate about my music! I think this passion has spread to some of my subjects as well."**

Many students have talents and interests, for example in sport, music or drama. Putting time and energy to these can often help you with work in school. Extra-curricular activities can help to develop confidence, organisational skills, self-discipline and good communication skills.

### Key Questions:

- What do you like to do when you are not at school?
- Are you giving enough time to developing your talents or interests?
- How often do you take part in activities outside lessons, both in and out of school?



## 9. Ask for help from home

**“My mum was a big support. She attended all the parents’ evenings, bought the revision guides and helped me with my revision.”**

Parents, brothers, sisters and other family members can often be very helpful. Even if they don’t know exactly what you are doing, they can often provide sound advice and help with organisation and study skills.

### Key Questions:

- What support do you get from home?
- How often do you talk to family members about the work you are doing and any difficulties you may be having?
- Are you willing to listen to their advice?



## 10. Work closely with your teachers

**“My English teacher in Year 9 made a lot of difference. Lessons were interesting, challenging and always unpredictable!”**

Last but by no means least – your teachers! Your teachers often have the greatest impact on the progress you make. It is vital that you work well with each teacher and form a real ‘learning partnership’.

### Key Questions:

- What particular approaches used by your teachers work best for you?
- Are you flexible and able to work well with all your teachers?
- Are you able to talk to your teachers about the things you need help with?