



The Henry Cort Community College

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Our ref: RRW

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Dear Parents/Carers

Year 10 Target Grades

We are excited to see many of you tomorrow evening at the 'Meet the Tutor' and Careers Fayre event taking place at Henry Cort. Prior to this meeting I wanted to inform you all that we are releasing the FFT20 GCSE Target grades, and that they will be included in the data sheet with our first impression Attitude to Learning grade. If you are unable to make an appointment for 'Meet the tutor', this data will also be available in Edulink documents.

In some subject areas students in Year 10 have had some elements of targets shared with them, therefore I want to ensure transparency and clarity for all by sharing all targets now. These targets are aspirational targets for what students may be able to achieve in their final GCSEs and are used as something to work towards over the next two years. Target grades are only used within the College and with yourselves.

How are targets generated?

Students KS2 scores, from Year 6 in Primary school, are analysed against the national results and target data is generated in all subjects for all students. For those students that do not have KS2 scores, CAT results are used to generate the target data, again using the same national system.

What are FFT?

FFT stands for Fischer Family Trust. This is the organisation that schools, across the country, use to set realistic, yet ambitious academic targets based on national comparative data as detailed above.

What is FFT20?

The '20' after FFT refers to the top 20% of students nationally with similar starting points in KS2 data. This is why we refer to the targets as aspirational, as they could be met if students make strong progress.

Why not use a different measure?

FFT are the nationally recognised source for target data. Schools can choose between FFT50, FFT20 and FFT5. If we were to set our targets at FFT50, this would provide targets that would meet the national average and would reflect a minimum standard as opposed to an aspirational target such as FFT20. There is always a fine line in choice, but we believe in our ASPIRE values and believe we should be open to our students and parents of what could be achieved with hard work.

ASPIRE

ACHIEVEMENT * SUPPORT * PERSEVERANCE * INDIVIDUALITY * RESPECT * EXCELLENCE

What if these targets don't match a student's true ability?

Models such as these are not perfect for all. Some students may have struggled in primary school but exceeded in Secondary and therefore the targets may seem low. There are some students that are also on the opposite side to the statement above. This is, however, the nationally recognised method of setting targets in all schools across the country. It is also the same system that all schools are measured against in the national performance tables.

Throughout the next two years targets will be discussed and used as comparisons by students, parents and teachers. I ask that during this time we are mindful of the impact of the conversations on our students and maintain open and honest dialogue that these are aspirational but also, for the majority, achievable with hard and focused work in lessons and at home.

I hope that this provides the clarity that it is intended to achieve, however, if there are further questions about target data and how it is used, please do not hesitate to contact me. I wish you all a wonderful week of rest during the half term and look forward to seeing many of you tomorrow evening (appointments with tutors are still available to be booked!).

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Walker
Assistant Principal
Raising Standards Leader