

Principal: Mr A Fowler BA, MA, MSc, PGCE

Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy Birtley Lane Birtley County Durham DH3 2LP

T: 0191 433 40 26 F: 0191 433 40 27 W: lordlawson.academy E: lordlawson@lordlawson.academy

Registered in England & Wales No. 07908404

Our Ref: DCA/SWD

18 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you inform you that you are now able to view your child's report on My Child at School (MCAS). This report provides vital information about the progress that your child is making. If you have forgotten your login details for MCAS, please email: lordlawson.academy and provide your child's name and tutor group.

The information below provides a guide to the report and what it contains, to help you and your child to discuss it together:

- Attendance we define good attendance as being 96% or higher. We know that students with this level of attendance achieve better in their GCSEs as a result.
- Predicted grade this is the grade that the teacher *currently estimates* that your child will achieve in their final GCSEs. This can change between now and the next report you receive.
- Target grade this is the grade that your child **should** be achieving. It is based on them making average progress from the start of year 7 to the end of year 11.
- Praise points this reflects the praise your child has received for their positive engagement and attitude towards their learning.
- Negative behaviour points this reflects the negative behaviour points your child has received where their engagement and attitude have fallen short of the required standards.
- Home learning negative points this reflects the negative points for homework not completed and/or missed homework deadlines.

It is important that you compare the predicted grade against the target grade. If your child is on or above target, then they are on track to make average or above average progress. This should be celebrated. If the predicted grade is the same as the target grade, then your child is on track to make average progress at secondary school. If the predicted grade is below the target grade, this indicates something to explore further with your child, and their teacher, during the upcoming parent/carer evening on Thursday 18 January. In the meantime, the praise, consequences, and home learning scores can sometimes provide context to underachievement.

There will be a second assessment window beginning Monday 29 January 2024. Students should ensure that they are already preparing for these assessments by fully engaging in lessons and engaging in their own revision schedule outside of school. Students who apply their learning to practise exam questions and commit to their studies fully are the ones who see the greatest improvement in their predicted grades.

Students should be working hard in class and attending well. You should begin to expect your child to be attending more after-school revision sessions from January. The opportunities are there for them to attend sessions most days after school. There are also opportunities to do this at lunch times. Students



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who commit to their studies more fully from January are the ones who see the biggest rise in their predicted grades following the assessments in February.

By speaking to your child about their report, and some of the things in this letter, you will be giving them the best guidance possible to ensure they are most successful students in this vital year for them.

As always, thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Mr D Cave

Assistant Principal