



## Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: T J Swain, M A

December 2016

### Year 7 interim reports and a further explanation of Music grading

Dear parent/guardian

Firstly, may I extend a warm welcome to you for your son's academic review at the School? During your meeting, you will receive a set of grades from your son's form tutor. The interim report explains the rationale and working behind the STAR and attainment grades.

Over the past couple of years, we have been working to adapt to changes at GCSE level. The new courses are reported to be more difficult and have greater content than previously. They are also being assessed differently, with a 9-1 scale replacing the established A\*-G measure. The two scales don't necessarily map neatly across, but the bottom of the new level 7 is aligned to the bottom of an old grade A and the 3/4 boundary will be the same as the old C/D level. The new level 9 is meant to represent the top of the old A\*, with 20% of students who achieve a level 7 or above receiving this nationally."

In music, the rationale behind the grades is slightly different for Year 7.

#### *Music target grades (alternative to STAR)*

The music target grades are what we consider to be a realistic goal for pupils to achieve at the end of the year. To begin with, these are based on an initial theory base line test in year 7, transfer information from primary schools and an early practical assessment. At the end of the year progress is reviewed taking into account performing, theory and composition assessments undergone during the year; a revised target grade is then set for year 8 & 9.

#### *Music term grades - year 7 only*

Music grades given in terms 1 & 2 are for progress on their new woodwind and brass instruments only and therefore will in some cases be quite low. This is to be expected on a brand new instrument. The end of year grade will be for all-round musical progress, encompassing all aspects of the music curriculum; performing (on different instruments) composing & music theory.

If you have any further questions, please do contact me at the School.

Yours sincerely

Mr R.J. Langton  
Head of School

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