

Introduction to KS4 at Highgate Wood School

- What do we need / what do we expect from students, the school and parents?
- Timeline
- Advice to parents
- Q&A

National Context

- GCSEs are more difficult than they were several years ago, very few subjects have coursework, all exams are at the end of the course
- This puts extra challenges on students, teachers and parents unless we plan well for this
- The government want proportions of grades fixed (about the 2019 level)
- The only answer to this is to work consistently hard and work smart

Reformed GCSEs (grades 9-1)

- More challenging
- Grades 9-1 rather than A* – G
- Grade 4 'standard pass' equivalent to a C
- Grade 5 is a 'good pass'
- Grade 7 is an A grade
- Grade 9 is above the old A*

Our Results

Year	Average grade	HWS 9-4 EM	HWS 5 9-6	Progress score
2016	5.5	70% 5A*-C	53% A*-B	+0.25
2017	5.0	63%	48% A*-B	+0.27
2018	4.9	67%	38%	+0.22
2019	5.5	74%	50%	+0.59
2020-1	5.7	76%	51%	NA
2022	5.4	78%	43%	+0.11?

Recent Progress Trend

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Progress Measure	Value Added	Value Added	Value Added	Progress 8	Progress 8	Progress 8	Progress 8
Score	1014.1	1014.6	1022.7	+0.25	+0.26	+0.22	+0.53
% Rank	Top 25%	Top 29%	Top 18%	Top 24%	Top 24%	Top 23%	Top 10%?

Well Above Average	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Well Below Average
Top 14%	Top 30%		Bottom 33%	Bottom 14%

We have been significantly above the national average for progress for the last 7 years... we are very proud of this! Our 2020 & 21 cohort worked exceptionally hard also and fully deserved their excellent grades!



The key message for students is:

- Revise consistently over the two years
- Take our advice about how to revise
- Do homework to the best of your ability

Results Needed for HWS Sixth Form (provisional)

Subject	Entry requirements	Subject	Entry requirements
Applied Science BTEC Double Award	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Maths Grade 4 in GCSE Sciences	Mathematics A Level	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Art and Design A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Art Grade 4 in GCSE English Language	Media Studies A Level	Grade 5 in English Language
Biology A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics Grade 6 in GCSE Biology or Grade 7 in Combined Science.	Music A Level*	Grade 6 in GCSE Music (with a Grade 5+ in instrument or voice). Grade 4 + theory skills to be evident
Chemistry A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics Grade 6 in GCSE Chemistry or Grade 7 in Combined Science.	Music Technology A Level*	Grade 5 in GCSE Music or Merit or above in Music Technology
Computing A Level	Grade 6 in Mathematics Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science. Can submit alternative evidence if GCSE computer science not studied	PE A Level	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and Grade 5 in Biology or Combined Science. Grade 5 in GCSE PE. Can submit alternative evidence if GCSE PE not studied

Results Needed for HWS Sixth Form (provisional)

Subject	Entry requirements	Subject	Entry requirements
Criminology Applied Diploma Single Award	Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and Maths Grade 4 in GCSE Sciences	Philosophy A Level	Grade 5 in English Language
Drama A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Drama Grade 5 in GCSE English Language	Physics A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics Grade 6 in GCSE Physics or Grade 7 in Combined Science.
Economics A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics Grade 5 in GCSE English Language	Photography A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Art Grade 4 in GCSE English Language
English Language & Literature A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language	Politics A Level	Grade 5 in English Language

Results Needed for HWS Sixth Form (provisional)

Subject	Entry requirements	Subject	Entry requirements
English Literature A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and in GCSE English Literature	Psychology A Level	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language Grade 6 in a Science
French A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE French. Native French speakers do need to have taken a GCSE.	Sociology A Level	Grade 5 in GCSE English Language
Further Mathematics A Level	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics	Spanish A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Spanish. Native Spanish speakers do need to have taken a GCSE.
Geography A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE Geography Grade 5 in English Language	Extended Project Qualification Equivalent to half an A Level.	Grade 4 or 5 in GCSE English Language
History A Level	Grade 6 in GCSE History Grade 5 in English Language	*	Taught at Woodhouse College

Timeline

Date	Event
WB 3 rd Oct	Year 10 concerns screen
WB 3 rd Oct	First exams in class (approx.)
WB 14 th Nov	Progress check & 1 st predictions
WB 20 th Feb	Progress check & predictions
9 th May	Year 10 parents' evening
WB 19 th Jun	Year 10 exams start

Timeline (provisional depending on lockdowns etc)

Date	Event
WB 17 th Jul	Progress check & reports
WB 17 th Jul	SLT meeting underachievers
Nov / Dec 2024	Year 11 Mocks 1
Jan 2024	Year 11 Parent's evening
Mar 2024	Year 11 Mocks 2
May 2024	GCSEs start

Minimum expected grades

- We use prior attainment data – from KS2 or sometimes CATS scores
- Based on what we think students can get if they work hard throughout their time at HWS
- These targets are a floor not a ceiling
- Without hard work and following our advice these expectations are very unlikely to be reached let alone exceeded!

Underachievement Information

- Currently this is based on a 'progress score' based on the best 8 GCSE predictions
- We aim for all our students to have a progress score of +0.5. This means that on average 4 GCSEs are a grade above what they would get in an average school, with their primary school starting point
- If a student has a progress score of less than +0.1 then we raise this with parents and students and might ask for extra work to be done (best estimate as prior data is not available due to new KS2 data)

Homework and Private Study

- Homework will be set regularly in 'Show My Homework', following the homework timetable
- Homework will be assessed in a variety of ways, usually self assessment or peer assessment
- If your child says they don't have homework this is likely to be incorrect – ask to see it if they say it is done, contact the teacher if they say it is not set, if they finish early then they should make / use revision cards or mind maps

Homework and Private Study

- If the homework is not understood this can be a good thing – students must not give up. Ask for help before the due date.
- All tests are very important. By doing well on them your child will do well in the year 10 exams / GCSE and better in the year 11 mocks and even better still at GCSE.

Homework and Private Study

- We strongly recommend 1.5 hours per week per GCSE of study (HW & revision).
- Homework is intended primarily to reinforce learning in class and therefore is the same as revision.
- An example revision timetable is shown shortly.

Communication & information

- Please remember that we all want teachers to spend as much time as possible planning outstanding lessons and assessing how students are doing and putting in place plans to address concerns.
- Answering emails etc is sometimes needed but the less time that this can take up the better.
- Satchel:One is a brilliant, efficient way to save parents and teachers time! Merits for good HW and classwork. Demerits for homework not done well enough, or incidents of poor conduct are all available.
- SAM learning / Kerboodle / Tassomai / Dr Frost are also available to many or all students and are good sources of information to check on progress.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday				
8am-9am	Travel and 2 mins revising physics & maths equations, then school					Sleep in	Sleep in				
9am-10am	School										
10am-11am											
11am-12pm						Maths / Science					English
12pm – 1pm						Geog / French					Maths / Science
1pm – 2pm						Friends and family time					Maths / Lit quotes
2pm – 3pm											
3pm – 4pm											
4pm – 5pm	Science / Maths	Football practice	English	French / REP	Meet friends						
5pm – 6pm	Maths / Science		Media / Geog	Science / Maths							
6pm – 7pm	Dinner and TV with family										
7pm – 8pm	English	Favourite TV show	Maths / Science	Media / Geog	Meet friends						
8pm – 9pm		French / REP									

How to revise

- Short (usually 30 minute) slots, then do another subject after a brief 5 minute break
- Interleaved – mixing up topics from, for example, a week ago and 6 months ago
- Revision cards or mind maps to recall facts and links (subject teachers will advise)
- Practise questions (for maths this is 90% of revision)
- All revision should be active not passive (writing / summarising / self testing, not reading a revision guide) and all produces paperwork to check!

What does a revision card look like?

Heat transfers and
specific heat capacity
definitions

Conduction - vibration ^{of particles}, passed through solid

convection (fluid) - heat vibrates particles
- volume increases
- density decreases
- hot fluids rise, cold sinks

far-red radiation - I. R. radiated by hot objects

specific heat capacity = energy needed to raise 1kg by 1°C

On the front, a statement of what to write about or a question

On the back, what you need to remember about this

Using revision cards

1. Look at the front
2. Get a blank sheet of paper
3. Write what you remember

Heat transfers and
specific heat capacity
definitions

Conduction — Vibration of atoms passed to others

~~Conduction~~ Convection — hot air rises

Radiation — radiated heat

Specific heat capacity: Energy to heat something.

Using revision cards

4. Turn the revision card over and correct

Conduction — Vibration of atoms passed to others through a solid

~~Con~~ Convection — hot ~~air~~ ^{Heat} vibrates particles, volume increases, density decreases, hot fluids

Radiation — ~~radiated heat~~ Infra-red radiated by hot objects

Specific heat capacity: Energy to heat something. 1kg of a substance by 1°C

You can see if your child has been revising by looking at their written work (all revision produces written work)

Using revision cards

5. Put revision cards that you did well on into one pile and return to them a week and then a month after – we are aiming for long term memory!
6. Revision cards that you did not do well on into another pile to come back to the next day or two
7. Throw away the scrap paper (once you have checked it is going well)

Who to go to with concerns

- The first port of call is the teacher (or tutor for general concerns / questions)
- Contact the Head of Department if the matter is specific to a subject and contacting the teacher has not helped
- Contact your child's tutor if your concern is more general
- Communication between home and school is vital. It needs to be just right – not too much and not too little.

What are Non Examined Assessments and when are they?

- Very few subjects have NEAs (previously called controlled assessments / coursework) now
- They are internally assessed
- They take place throughout the next year and a half depending on subject
- They take place in school and so they do not cause bottlenecks of work

Attendance above 95%...

- ...means that no grades should be reduced due to absence
- 90% attendance (one day off per fortnight) will mean every GCSE is one grade lower than it should be
- 92/93% - on average half of your child's GCSEs will be a grade lower than they should be
- This information is valid for non – pandemic times and reasonable adjustments will need applying depending on circumstances

Additional Support in Year 10

(This will vary based on circumstances)

- In year 10 we use the concerns screen in October and the termly data to support students who are underachieving by:
 - Monitoring & report by tutors
 - House teams putting in place an individualised program
 - Asking students to catch up with extra work if current progress is less than expected and asking parents to check it is done before we do
 - More information and help on the [website](#)

Additional Support in Year 11

- Students who are underachieving (especially in English and Maths) are supported by the 'Aspire and Achieve' Programme. Each students:
 - 'Cloud 9 Club'
 - Has a staff mentor
 - Has a 6th form tutor
 - Has a bespoke set of interventions specific to their needs

Excuses and Answers

- E: I do better if I don't revise
- A: That is never true!
- E: I revised at school / my friend's place
- A: Excellent, show me your notes from revision cards. After dinner you can do some more!

Excuses and Answers

- E: I can learn by reading my text book
- A: This is never true. Revision must be active and almost always produces paperwork
- E: Everyone learns differently!
- A: This is not really true! Whilst there is some truth to it everyone learns by repetition and example and checking their understanding objectively

Final Thoughts

- Keep your child focussed on their success at school
- Support us in supporting your child
- Regularly speak to your child about their education
- Rewards and sanctions at home to support good grades attendance and conduct really do help

FAQs

Q: Do we recommend any particular private tutors?

A: No, and we believe a private tutor shouldn't be necessary if advice from the school is followed

Q: Will the students have the same teachers for yr10 and yr11?

A: probably but it isn't guaranteed

Q: Will there be regular test in class **A:** yes

Q: Will we be advised straight away if our child's grades drop?

A: We report termly but teachers might contact more quickly if there is an issue for instance with HW