

Knowing our students

1. Introduction

At Wilmslow High School we are committed to knowing our students well in terms of each student's:

- Academic potential and performance within our Formal Curriculum
- Wider potential and performance across our Wider Curriculum
- Character
- Wellbeing

This document outlines how we know our students well in terms of their academic potential and performance within our Formal Curriculum.

2. How does our assessment calendar work?

For students across Years 7-11 there are key school events that play an important part in our assessment of students' academic potential and performance, and our engagement with parents about this. You will see that these events are spread across the year so that we are in at least termly contact with parents.

- **Expectations Evenings.** These are an important moment at the start of each year to outline our expectations for learning so that parents understand the teaching and learning that they can expect to see and the key foci for each year group. As we welcome all our Year 7 parents on the 5th September, the Year 7 Expectations Evening is placed after autumn half term to fit with the first Year 7 assessment certificate.
- **Parents Evenings.** These are opportunities for parents to meet with their child's teachers to discuss progress and performance. They are planned to occur at a key moment for each year group:
 - i. Year 7 and 8: in the spring term to fit with feedback on the mid year assessments
 - ii. Year 9: towards the end of the autumn term to help students and parents to make informed course choices. There is an additional Course Choices Evening for Year 9 parents on 31st January
 - iii. Year 10: at the start of the summer term to focus students on preparing effectively for their end of year mock examinations
 - iv. Year 11: in the spring term following the first Year 11 mock examination. There is also an additional Results Evening for Year 11 parents on 17th January following the mock examinations
- **Assessment points.** We have two assessment points in the year (apart from for Year 11 students) to ensure that we assess students rigorously, but not excessively. These assessments are important in helping us to know the academic potential and performance of our students.

In Year 11 we give students three mock examinations in their core subjects to ensure that they gain plenty of practice in exam technique. Mock exam 2 is after the February half term. Mock exam 3 is after Easter.

For our students in key stage 3 we also use GL assessments to gain a deeper and richer understanding of their performance. These assess our students' underlying knowledge and skills, whilst our internal assessments assess students' knowledge and skills in our taught curriculum. By combining information from these assessments we are able to know our students better.

- **Reports and assessment certificates.** We report on our students twice a year following their mid year and end of year assessments using:
 - i. An assessment certificate which records academic potential and performance. You will see that in Years 7 and 8 these are planned to fit with parents evenings
 - ii. A report that records academic potential and performance and students' fuller engagement with our Wider Curriculum and Wilmslow Way

Our Year 7 parents also get an initial assessment certificate on the 15th November reporting students' performance in their transition GL tests, which they sit in September. Our Year 11 parents get a report in November to focus students on preparation for their first Year 11 mock examinations.

- **On-going monitoring.** We think that it is important to regularly monitor our students' performance between their assessment points so that any concerns are picked up. These monitoring points are planned to ensure that we have regular contact with parents if this is needed.
- **Summer work.** It is important that students understand the on-going journey across year groups. For this reason, where students have fallen behind during a year we set summer work to allow them to catch up. This summer work is monitored at the start of the new academic year.

Event	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Expectations Evenings	15 th Nov	12 th Sep	18 th Sep	19 th Sep	20 th Sep
Parents Evenings	14 th March	7 th March	6 th Dec	9 th May	24 th Jan
Mid year assessment point	Week of 28 th Jan	Week of 28 th Jan	Week of 21 st Jan	From 3 rd Dec	From 3 rd Dec
GL assessments	Week of 29 th April	Week of 29 th April	Week of 29 th April		
End of year assessment point	Week of 3 rd June	Week of 3 rd June	Week of 10 th June	Week of 17 th June	GCSE Timetable
Assessment Certificate	15 th Nov 13 th March	6 th March	15 th Feb	25 th Jan	17 th Jan
Report	5 th July	5 th July	12 th July	12 th July	16 th Nov
On-going monitoring	19 th Nov 4 th March	26 th Nov 4 th March	3 rd Dec 25 th Feb	23 rd Oct 28 th Jan 25 th March 7 th May	12 th Nov 14 th Jan 11 th March 29 th April
Summer work and September Monitoring	September				

3. How will we know if your child is falling behind?

As you will have seen from the calendar above we regularly monitor the performance of our students. At these points, students are categorised as follows:

- Green: performance is expected or above
- Amber: performance is just below expected
- Red: performance is below expected
- Purple: performance is well below expected

This judgement is either based on performance at the two assessment points in the year, or teacher feedback on performance in lessons between these points.

4. What will we do if your child is falling behind?

In a large school it is important that we have a comprehensive network in place to ensure that no child 'slips under the radar.'

The progress of each year group is reviewed on a half termly basis to ensure that every child in the school is discussed, and any student who is falling behind or at risk of falling behind is allocated a 'named person' to monitor their progress and take appropriate action.

The 'named person' will depend on the nature of the issue. It may be a child's form tutor, Head of House or Student Manager. It could be a member of our Learning Support team, our Academic Catch Up Lead or a member of the Leadership Group. In each case we will think carefully about the right member of staff to help your child to catch up quickly.

5. What sort of action will we put in place if your child is falling behind?

This will depend on what we feel is the best action to ensure that your child catches up quickly.

This might be:

- A conversation with the student
- A meeting with parents
- Use of a progress report
- Additional curriculum support
- An academic catch up plan

What we do know is that students catch up most quickly and effectively where:

- They follow our advice
- They work hard
- They, and we, have your support in our actions

6. What expectations do we have of our students?

You will know already that we expect all our students to meet our Wilmslow Way expectations; in addition to this we expect them to pursue excellence in striving to fulfil their full potential. We believe that this is best attained through the following:

1. 'Green' performance across the Formal Curriculum
2. An ambitious aspiration for the future
3. Being a young person of character with a low number of behaviour points and a high number of achievement points
4. Attendance of 96% or above
5. Regular participation in at least one Wider Curriculum activity

7. Who do you contact if you have concerns about your child's academic progress?

If your child has a 'named person' this is the person that you should contact, copying in your child's Head of House.

If your child does not have a 'named person' then you should contact your child's Head of House.

If your child is currently on our SEN Register then you should contact our SENCO, copying in your child's Head of House.

8. How will we let you know if your child has improved or if we have further concerns?

As you will have seen from the calendar above we regularly monitor the performance of students. At every point we will update you on your child's progress.

9. What can you do as a parent that will make the biggest difference for your child?

A good education is a powerful gift that we can give to our children. At Wilmslow High School we believe that:

*Young people only get 950 days of secondary education; therefore, we are committed to the **pursuit of excellence** for every student, every day.*

- Ensure that your child has at least 96% attendance – if they are missing more than 4% of their education it is likely to impact on how easy it is for them to reach their potential.
- Ensure that your child understands the value of a good education so that they work hard in lessons.
- Ensure that your child is doing high quality homework and provide a supportive environment for this.
- Ensure that your child has some form of aspiration for the future that motivates them to value their education.

If you need our support with any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can work together on this.