



Headteacher: Mr M Warren

15<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

## Re: Target Setting Year 9

You will be aware that recently your daughters have been given their GCSE estimates to put in their planner ready for their first tracking point which will be sent home week commencing 30<sup>th</sup> October. There is significant change nationally in terms of assessment across all year groups. The A-G grading system with which we are all familiar with is being phased out and your daughter will leave year 11 with GCSE grades in a number format 9-1 for all their subjects.

### How are they worked out?

These estimates are obtained from The Fischer Family Trust (FFT) which is a charitable organisation which provides benchmarks of likely future attainment which schools can use to evaluate their performance and is used by the vast majority of schools. FFT therefore profiles the student and produces an estimated outcome for students with a similar profile at KS2. We use FFT 20 targets which would mean our students would be in the top 20% nationally for progress if they achieve their target grade.

Benchmarks are not prophecies. Just because many students progressed from a particular KS2 score to a particular GCSE outcome doesn't mean that all students are destined to follow suit. We believe in encouraging students to be aspirational and not to set a limit on what they can achieve. We ask students and teachers to think about how well a student could do if they consistently worked their absolute hardest for the duration of the course. These can become internal targets agreed between the student and the teacher. After all, national databases can only give an estimate of achievement and individual aspirational targets need to be set on knowledge of each student.

I will be giving more details about the targets in the Year 9 Information Evening on the 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. I look forward to seeing you there.

Kind regards

Julie Stephenson  
Deputy Head Curriculum

