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Dear Parent/Guardian

“Letting them in on the Secret”

Students at Maiden Erlegh School in Reading are involved in a process of setting themselves ambitious academic targets based on information provided by Fischer Family Trust. The Fischer Family Trust (FFT) is an independent, non-profit organisation which is mainly involved in undertaking and supporting projects addressing the development of education in the UK. In doing this, our aim is to promote student engagement and involvement in their own learning and progress.

On Friday 30 September during the tutor period, students were given subject estimates generated by FFT on the 1 to 9 GCSE grading system. For each subject a percentage estimate is given for achieving each grade in that subject. The average grade is also shown and students are encouraged to choose a target grade that is **one grade above this average**. These estimates are intended purely as a guide to help you, your child and their teacher set a “student owned” target grade. Our guiding principle is that targets should be “Realistically Aspirational”.

For example if your child has a 46% chance of achieving a grade 6 in Science and a 21% chance of gaining a grade 7 then the estimates are telling you that 1 in 5 of similar students will go on to gain this higher grade 7. With support, and their desire to do well, could your son/daughter be one of those students who achieve the grade 7?

The students will be asked to make a preliminary suggestion about the target they wish to set themselves and record it in the yellow column. During lessons their teacher will discuss this with them and, using their professional experience, will help guide your child to an agreed student target.

For some students FFT does not show any estimates. The students have been issued with a blank pro forma and will be supported by their teachers to complete their targets.

I am writing today to inform you about this process and engage your support.

I shared a presentation with parents about this process at the ‘meet the tutors’ evening on Wednesday 21 September. This presentation is available on the school website here [Year 7 Target Setting Presentation](#).

At the end of this letter is a table showing the rough equivalences between old National Curriculum levels and the new GCSE fine grades (9-1) we use for target setting and reporting to you. They also show, for your information, how the new grades relate to the old style GCSE grading (A*-G) which will no longer be used by the time students in Year 7 reach their examinations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson

Deputy Headteacher

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading

Fine grade equivalence table

All target, assessment and reporting grades in Year 7 will be using the new 1-9 GCSE numerical grading system.

For internal assessments these have been fine graded using the H,M,L suffix.

So 9H is a high 9 and a 9M is a middle 9 and a 9L is a low 9.

old KS Levels	new	old GCSE grade
9	9H	A*
9	9M	A
9	9L	A-
8	8H	B+
8	8M	B
8	8L	B-
7	7H	C+
7	7M	C
7	7L	C-
6	6H	D+
6	6M	D
5	5H	E
5	5M	E
5	5L	E
4	4H	F
4	4M	F
4	4L	F
3	3H	G
3	3M	G
3	3L	G
2	2H	H
2	2M	H
2	2L	H
1	1H	J
1	1M	J
1	1L	J
0	0H	K
0	0M	K
0	0L	K