



19 October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers

## YEAR 7 FLIGHT PATHS

At Rooks Heath we monitor students' progress from the start of Year 7 until their GCSEs. In order to measure their progress, students are put on 'flight paths' which maps out their progress from their primary school and helps to indicate the minimum GCSE grade they could achieve when they reach the end of Year 11. Students will be informed of their flight paths this week. You will receive a report later this half term which will inform you about attitude to learning, homework, and behaviour. You will receive a report in the Spring term (and every term thereafter) which will inform you of your child's progress in relation to their flight path.

### What is a flight path?

It is an estimate of the range of GCSE grades a student should be working towards for the end of Key Stage 4 (year 11) which is when they sit their GCSE examinations. Teachers have planned the curriculum to reflect the flight path expectations for each student. A child's flight path may vary between subjects.

Students are placed on one of the following flight paths;

- Excelling:** For students aiming for grades 7-9 at GCSE
- Securing:** For students aiming for grades 5-6 and above at GCSE
- Developing:** For students aiming for grade 4 and above at GCSE
- Emerging:** For students aiming for grade 3 and above at GCSE
- Beginning:** For students aiming for grade 1 and above at GCSE

### What do the flight paths mean?

The main objective of the flight path model is to enable staff, students and parents to assess whether appropriate progress is being made to achieve the highest possible outcome. Projections based on attainment at primary school (KS2) tell us what grades we would expect students to be achieving at GCSE when they sit exams at the end of Year 11, through a series of checkpoints. Flight paths show what skills and/or knowledge students would be expected to have acquired, and by when, if they are to be on target to achieve those expected outcomes.

### How is the flight path for each subject decided?

This is determined by the Assessment Team using KS2 data on entry in Year 7. Teachers use their professional judgement to provide the right level of challenge for individual students in their subject using departmental guidelines. Students have an assembly last week, where the flight paths, progress checks and reports are explained to them. Parents are informed of allocated flight paths and progress, at the end of the Autumn Term.





### **Can students change flight paths?**

The allocated flight path gives a target range for the student to aim for, so we can judge whether they are on track to meet their targets. If a student falls below their flight path expectation, then we would put support and intervention in place to help the student get back on track. It would only be in exceptional circumstances that a flight path would be lowered. Teachers and subject leaders constantly monitor student performance and should the student's performance, over time, indicate that the student is consistently performing above their flight path expectations, then it would be changed.

### **How is information about progress communicated via reports to parents?**

The school will send home three monitoring reports per year to parents in order to track a student's progress. The report will highlight the subject areas of strength and areas for development.

We encourage parents to use these reports as an opportunity to assist with the student's learning and support us as we work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for your child.

### **How does the flight path model transfer to GCSE targets?**

At the beginning of Year 10, the flightpath model is replaced with a specific GCSE target grade per subject. The target grade is based on KS2 data which is used to extrapolate most likely outcomes in the final examinations.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school by phone or emailing [contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:contactus@rooksheath.harrow.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

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