

Target setting, assessment and tracking at De La Salle

At De La Salle we now use GCSE grading across all years. Due to this change it is important to ensure there is an understanding about how and why we use this system.

Firstly, your child will normally have taken a KS2 SATs test in reading and mathematics. The school will then see what they would be likely to achieve at the end of Year 11 based on these results*. However, this end of KS4 target grade is not shared with your son or daughter until Year 10. In Years 7, 8 and 9 students are given an end of year target based on what each subject considers to be an appropriate grade working back from that Year 11 target.

Students are assessed each term with GCSE grades but it should be noted that these grades are awarded based on the student's application of GCSE skills rather than GCSE tests and mark schemes to determine this grade. Using this data, the school is able to track your child's progress in each subject in comparison to his / her peers and their target grade. Consequently, it is possible that sometimes students will change their teaching set based on their academic performance. Target grades will also be reviewed as we are aware that student's abilities can change throughout their time at De La Salle and vary from one subject to another.

A school report for a Year 7 student after the first term may look like the one below.

De La Salle School					
Year 7 AUTUMN Report – December 2021					
Term 1 – Report 2					
Name of student:		Class:	Attendance:		
SUBJECTS	Class Teacher	End Y7 KS4 Target	Assessment	ATL (Attitude to Learning)	
			Term 1	Term 1	
			T1/2	T1/1	T1/2
ART		3=	2=	1	3
DRAMA		3=	2+	2	1
DT		3=	2+	2	2
ENGLISH		3=	3-	1	1
FRENCH		2+	1+	1	1
GEOGRAPHY		3=	1+	2	2
HISTORY		3=	2-	2	2
ICT		3=	2+	2	2
MATHS		3=	2+	1	3
MUSIC		3=	2+	1	1
PE		2=	1-	3	2
RE		3=	2+	2	2
SCIENCE		33=	22=	2	2
SPANISH		2+	1+	2	1

ATL (Attitude to Learning) DESCRIPTIONS: NOTES FOR PARENTS/CARERS			
1 Outstanding	Exemplary: The student is fully prepared, committed and working to the best of their ability in every lesson. They use their initiative to develop learning further. They complete all homework on time, frequently producing work of exceptional and exemplary quality to their maximum ability.	3 Requires Improvement	The student does not always use lesson time effectively. Their attitude to learning is passive and requires improvement. Homework is usually completed, but not always on time. There is evidence of work being rushed, lacking development and not reaching the standard of which the student is capable.
2 Good	The student works hard in lessons. They always demonstrate a good attitude to learning. Homework is always completed on time and to a good standard, appropriate to their ability.	4 Unacceptable	The student makes little apparent effort and needs to be frequently reminded to stay on task. They show little or no interest in learning. Homework is rarely completed on time or to the standard of which the student is capable.

Grades are split up into thirds which is why you will see 3+, 3= and 3- for example. As you can see this student is only a grade away or less from their target grade in most subjects. Considering this student has only just started secondary school and is developing new skills in particular subjects there would not be too many areas of concern. In fact, their progress in English stands out. Whilst Spanish and Geography have been given grades slightly further away than their target grades the student has been given a 2 for their Attitude to Learning (ATL) so is clearly working well in the subject. In fact, the main cause for concern would be Art and Maths. Whilst the student is doing relatively well in the subject according to their assessment grade they have slipped from an ATL of 1 for these two subjects to a 3. It might be advisable to contact the school and speak to the school to find out more about this situation given that change in the student's approach to learning in those subjects.

If having read this information you are still unclear about what to look out for in your child's report then do not hesitate to contact Mr. Butler who will discuss these grades and reporting system with you in more detail.

*In the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021 where KS2 tests were cancelled the school has used results from CATs tests instead.