

28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Explanation of School Report/Grading System**

Your child's school report includes their current working grade in all subjects, behaviour points and attendance. Our mission at St Michael's is to create and maintain a culture that allows everyone to achieve their full potential. In order to succeed, our students must have a clear vision of the journey they are on and the progress they are making. The students are set incremental targets in Key Stage 3 based on their attainment in the standard assessment tests (SATs) in Year 6.

At St Michael's, we see assessment as an integral part of teaching and learning; it is inextricably linked to our curriculum. Assessment is used as a tool for measuring progression and for diagnosing strengths and weaknesses from which goals can be set to raise achievement.

We operate a grading system that is consistent with Key Stage 4. In each subject, we provide a bespoke flightpath, mapping progress that is unique to each subject and child. The primary benefits of this system to you and your child are that it will afford the opportunity to not only celebrate the progress made within the year but also give you and your child an even clearer vision of the potential GCSE outcomes by subject, at the end of Year 11. From a school perspective, the system allows us to track progress and, where necessary, apply adaptive teaching strategies to address the areas for development that may be required to maintain your child's positive progress.

The majority of subjects use a 9-1 grading system. The grading used in PE, music, and drama is different because of the vocational courses offered at Key Stage 4. This is based on Pass, Merit, and Distinction. For PE, Gold, Silver, and Bronze is used in Year 7 and 8. Whole grades in all three of the systems are broken down by fine grades to determine how secure the individual is at each grade. This is illustrated in the table below.

Grade	Descriptor
<b>1+</b>	Securely meeting the criteria for this grade, close to achieving the grade above.
<b>1</b>	Meeting the criteria for this grade but not yet close to achieving the grade above.
<b>1-</b>	Meeting the minimum criteria for this grade; at risk of dropping a grade lower without sustained progress.

Headteacher: **Mrs C Handy-Rivett, BA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

St Michael's Church of England High School • Rowley Learning Campus • Curral Road • Rowley Regis • West Midlands • B65 9AN  
Telephone: **0121 561 6881** • Fax: 0121 561 6882 • Email: [contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:contact.staff@st-michaels.sandwell.sch.uk)

From the beginning of Year 7, your child will be developing knowledge and skills that directly apply to the suite of qualifications we offer on the Key Stage 4 curriculum at St Michael's. During Year 9, our options process will guide your child towards choosing subjects that give them the greatest chance of a successful future. During this process, assessment information will be combined with our knowledge of successful future pathways to help guide you and your child towards the most appropriate option choices.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Bending', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Bending  
**Assistant Headteacher**