

High Prior Attaining Students

What is a High Prior Attaining Student?

- ▶ A student who attained a score over 109 in English and Maths in their Key Stage 2 SATs
- ▶ HPA students typically make up about 30 % of the year group
- ▶ Their targets generally range from GCSE level 6 to level 9.

So what are the new GCSE grades in old money?



Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5 STRONG PASS	
4 STANDARD PASS	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

What are the characteristics of an HPA student?

- ▶ They can ask challenging questions of the teacher, showing real curiosity.
- ▶ They can see both sides of the argument and can change their direction of thought quickly.
- ▶ They work systematically and accurately.
- ▶ They are analytical.
- ▶ They can recognise patterns and solve problems easily.
- ▶ They make jumps in reasoning and can think “outside the box”.
- ▶ They can make connections between ideas they have learned in different subjects.

What are the characteristics of an HPA student?

- ▶ They can be unwilling to follow teacher methods or exam strategy.
- ▶ If they're not challenged academically, they can become easily distracted or withdrawn.
- ▶ They can find examinations or examination technique difficult or overwhelming as they're required to streamline their thoughts and have to work within set ways of doing things.

Our strategy

- ▶ Enrichment and after school clubs
- ▶ Greater student leadership within lessons and around school
- ▶ Continued staff training on HPA strategies for use in the classroom
- ▶ Improve our homework provision
- ▶ Department-based independent reading programmes
- ▶ Monitoring, tracking and evaluation of our HPA provision.

How you can support your child

- ▶ Bear in mind; an HPA student may not be high attaining in all subjects. An HPA Maths student may need extra support in English.
- ▶ Emphasise Progress not perfection. Some HPA students have impossibly high standards.
- ▶ Some HPA students don't have impossibly high standards. They may settle for a level 4, as that is “just enough to get by...”
- ▶ Encourage wider reading.
- ▶ Ensure learning goes on all year round. Keep them busy during the holidays
- ▶ Encourage your child to talk about their learning. Students learn through talk.

How you can support your child

- ▶ Independence: Allow for independent study. Encourage your child to have to “work it out for themselves”.
- ▶ Independence: Let them get it wrong, reflect upon their learning and learn from their mistakes.
- ▶ Independence: Revision for final GCSEs starts now. All students have key assessments in all subjects and end of year tests. All of these feed into GCSE... eventually.
- ▶ Independence: Encourage your child to review their learning. Provide revision guides and study guides. Encourage your child to “teach themselves” and work independently.
- ▶ Independence: The highest performing students go “above and beyond” what the teacher expects.