



Shirley High School

Performing Arts College

"Striving for Excellence"

GF/P/Y7 Autumn Report
11 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Year 7 Autumn Report

Firstly, thank you for all your support in a term like no other. Starting secondary school is always difficult but doing so in a global pandemic goes beyond our imagination. Having your child at Shirley has been a pleasure and I would like to recognise the excellent way they have adapted to such challenging circumstances.

As per our assessment calendar, your child's grade report is now available to download from the SIMs App. This report provides information about how your child is performing in each subject in relation to national expectations for their age. It also contains information about their behaviour, attitude to learning and whether or not they are consistently completing their homework. The report is designed to provide an overview of your child's progress and we strongly encourage you to look at it alongside your child's books, which will provide much more detailed information about their learning and progress.

At Key Stage 3, we aspire for every child to have the skills, knowledge and understanding required to be successful at all stages of their educational journey. Every subject has a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) which are closely aligned to the National Curriculum. You can find these in the Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs) in your child's books. If your child is working at the expected level in a subject, then they are working in line with national expectations, in the majority of KPIs, for a child of their age.

For each subject, your child will be assessed as either:

- **Working beyond (WB)** the expected level for a child of their age
- **Working at (WA)** the expected level for a child of their age
- **Working towards (WT)** the expected level for a child of their age
- **Requiring Supported Learning (SL)**

We understand that students have different starting points and that every student has strengths and areas they find more difficult. This is nothing to be concerned about provided the teacher is happy with the progress your child is making and you can see evidence of this in their books.

Principal: Mr T Myton NPQH NPQSL IOMEL CLT PGCE BSc (Hons)

Shirley Church Road, Croydon, CR0 5EF **Tel:** 020 8656 9755 **Web:** www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk **Email:** office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk

Shirley High School is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales.

Company No 7837778 Registered Office: Shirley High School, Shirley Church Road, Shirley, Croydon CR0 5EF





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Homework/Effort/Behaviour reporting

On their grade report, your child will have an attitude to learning grade for each subject from 4-1, with 4 being outstanding and 1 unsatisfactory. This grade indicates how well your child is working in relation to the expectations of the Shirley Learning Journey and the Shirley Values (please see your child's planner for details of these expectations). Your child will also have a 4-1 grade for homework and behaviour for each subject. Please contact your child's subject teacher to discuss these grades further.

Supporting your child

Parental input can make an enormous difference to the progress a child makes at school, so being aware of the skills your child needs to succeed, and how you can support them to improve, is vital. There are a number of simple, effective things you can do to support your child as they work their way through secondary school:

- Offer support but don't be tempted to do their work for them. Help them to help themselves.
- Encourage your child to use their planner and the SIMs Student App to organise their time and get homework done to the best of their ability. Teach them to take responsibility for their homework and to take pride in it.
- Ensure your child has a quiet place to do their homework.
- Encourage your child to make use of the school's Homework Club, which is available every lunch time and every day after school in D25 in non-Covid times. We are currently only offering this to year 7 on Monday and Wednesday but this will be up and running again as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, please contact your child's form tutor if they need support with their homework.
- Check your child has all of the required equipment, including a reading book, each day.
- Regularly review their progress and ask questions about their learning at school. Ask them to bring their books home and go through the feedback in them together. Make sure your child has acted on all of the feedback provided by their teacher.
- Ask them where they struggle and encourage them to ask for help if they need it.
- Encourage your child to extend her/himself if s/he finds the work comfortable. Please do not hesitate to contact subject teachers for support with this.
- Reassure your child that failure is a stepping-stone to success.
- Monitor time spent in front of screens.
- Model a positive attitude towards learning and education.
- Encourage your child to read and talk to them about what they have read.
- Encourage your child to explore potential careers. Research the requirements of different career pathways with your child and encourage them to have dreams and aspirations for the future. Support them to develop and follow their passions.

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- Develop a partnership with your child's teachers. Ask questions and initiate conversations about your child's learning as necessary.
- Download the SIMs Parent App and check it regularly. Enable notifications and make sure you are aware of dates for Parents' Evenings; school events and upcoming trips. Follow up on school rewards and sanctions at home. Praise your child wherever possible.
- Check and sign your child's planner every week.

Should you have any questions about your child's progress in a specific subject, please do not hesitate to contact the subject teacher in the first instance. The best way to do this is to email office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk and ask them to forward the email to your child's teacher. Do not worry if you do not know the teacher's name, the office staff can find out for you provided you include your child's name and form on the email.

Should you be concerned about your child's progress generally, or have any questions about their report or the assessment procedures outlined above, please contact their tutor. Again, the best way to do this is to email the office on office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk being sure to give your child's name and form. The office staff will then forward your email to the relevant tutor. Please also contact the office if you need support with the SIMs App.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

Ms G Fair
Vice Principal

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