



October 2026

Dear parent/carers,

I am writing to inform you of some assessment and data information relevant to your daughter this term. This information was shared with students in a recent assembly with Mr Skinner.

Within the first term of Year 12, all subjects will conduct some form of assessment. The aim of these assessments will be to see how students are settling in and to check they are making the progress we would hope at this early stage of the course. The nature of these assessments will vary depending on the subject, for example, in some subjects, an ongoing practical task might be conducted over a series of lessons, whereas, in others, a written test might be more appropriate.

The assessments are low stake and are used to inform teachers as to where students are currently at academically so that, if needed, intervention and support can be put in place going forward. There is no formal reporting of the outcome of these assessments to parents/carers, however, staff will use these results to support their decision making when finalising Autumn LAG (Likely to Achieve Grade) and effort data which you will receive in December.

Most assessments will take place during students' normal lesson time with their class teacher. However, for Maths, Biology, Chemistry, History and Psychology, tests will take place in the Gym on Monday 23 November, helping us to ensure that students will sit the test at the same time. The timetable has been shared with students via the Google Classroom.

Lessons will continue as usual on Monday 23 November. Full attendance is expected as it would be on any other day and, when they do not have a test in the hall, students are expected to attend their normal lessons. If a student were to miss a November test, they should liaise with their subject teacher, who will decide if it is appropriate for students to have a copy of the paper to complete in their own time.

Target Grades

When students start Year 12, we give them target grades for each of their subjects.

These target grades have been calculated from students' GCSE results, a process which is carried out nationally.

These target grades are not what we as a school are saying students are going to get, rather they are something you can use to compare to the Likely to Achieve Grades (LAGs A*-E) they receive for each subject, each term. The targets don't take into account aptitude or talent for a particular subject, they are solely based on data. For example, a fluent French speaker would not necessarily be given a top target grade for A Level French.

Even if students get ten grade 9s at GCSE, it doesn't guarantee A* predictions across the board. This might seem strange, but it is based upon the fact that A Levels are of course difficult and that, for students to get the very top grades, they have to make better than the expected progress. It is clearly hard to get A* target grades, but our students receive on average 15-20% A* grades every year in the real exams.

These target grades have no bearing on LAGs or UCAS grades, rather they are used as a tool for students to challenge themselves and to have useful discussions with their teachers about their courses.

The step up from GCSE to A Level study is hard, and so far we have been very impressed with how Year 12 have settled into sixth form life at AHS. They have shown they are a dedicated, hardworking and mature cohort. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support.

Ms J Quesne
Head of Year 12