



Year 12 Subject Leader Comments – Term 2

The Projected grades reported in the Early Assessment Report which you have just received are indicative only and based on the evidence available at this early stage of the course. As students move through more complex and demanding content, these projections may change - sometimes significantly. This is normal and reflects the development of students' skills and understanding over time.

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Art (Fine)	Students have been producing work on their transitional theme 'The Human Condition', exploring a range of paint and drawing methods relating to their personal interpretation of the topic. Developing work on both the human form, still life and photography has enabled students to build their technical skills in preparation for the Fine Art coursework topic starting in Term 3. Students have also been introduced to a range of artists and have begun investigations of their work using analytical methods.
Biology	Students have been studying cells and microscopes, biological membranes, exchange surfaces and animal transport thus far. The attainment grade for this report is their current average end of topic test score.
Business Studies	Business Studies students are currently studying Theme 1: Marketing and People. Within their first term Business Studies students studied; Markets, Supply and Demand, Elasticities of Demand, and Marketing Methods. Within the current term students will study Human Resources and Entrepreneurial Skills. Students have started to undertake topic tests and practice exam style questions. These topic tests will allow students to build the skills needed for the A Level whilst also allowing knowledge to be assessed. In the New Year students will work through Theme 2: Managing Business Activities. We hope all students have enjoyed their start to A-Level Business and continue to progress as the academic year unfolds.
Chemistry	The attainment grade shown is an average of the most recent tests. For Organic Chemistry this will be 'Introduction to Organic Chemistry' and 'Alkanes'. For Inorganic Chemistry this will be 'Atomic Structure'.
Computer Science	So far this year in Computer Science, students have been learning the 'Fundamentals of programming', covering selection, iteration, arrays, subroutines and more, developing skills learnt previously to a standard needed for further study. They have also been learning about 'Problem solving', gaining a better understanding of computational thinking, how to structure a program using modern programming techniques, how to apply abstraction and automation to a problem as well as learning about finite state machines and a number of different algorithms. They have recently started learning about how data is represented for use by



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	computers to create text, images and sound, as well as computer organisation and architecture, where they are learning about the inner workings of a computer, the processor and necessary peripherals.
Design Engineering	Over the course of this term, students have continued to work through and complete their introductory 'design-and-make' project. Students have also been working through the theory topics of the course, including circuit design and pneumatics as well as looking at some of the engineering mathematics required for the exams. Students then started researching their A-Level controlled assessment project (NEA), beginning with producing their own bespoke contextual challenges. These challenges were all be investigated and then a feasibility study of potential products produced. Students then developed a design brief, identifying the primary user and stakeholders. Once complete, students investigated the user and stakeholder's needs and wants, outlining the stakeholders' requirements. All the tasks are being assessed in line with the Design Engineering specification.
Drama & Theatre Studies	This term, Year 12 have worked on both of their set texts, Hedda Gabler and Our Country's Good, on Live Theatre, and on developing their performance or design ideas on their first scripted practical NEA.
Economics	The students have spent this term working through the first Theme, which has covered an introduction to the core concepts in Economics and the fundamentals of microeconomic theory. The attainment and projected grades presented here should be treated with a considerable degree of caution. They represent the results of the students first encounters with full A level questions under timed conditions and are necessarily concerned only with a very small and introductory part of the course.
English Language	Students have embarked on the A-Level course with a study of a how meanings and representations are created in a range of texts, with a strong focus on the methods and approaches different writers take to connect with different audiences. This has included building a bank of terminology to precisely identify how writers use language and structure. In the Language Diversity unit, students have begun to explore how language may reflect aspects of identity, with a focus on key examples and theory relating to regional diversity and accent bias.
English Literature	Students have embarked on the A-Level course with a study of their Shakespeare set text, 'The Taming of the Shrew', and the modern novel 'The Great Gatsby', as part of the 'Love Through the Ages' unit. Their Shakespeare study has included grounding the text within its literary and historical contexts as a comedy and exploring how key themes and ideas relating to love and relationships could be interpreted by different



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	audiences. Their study of 'The Great Gatsby' has, similarly, involved in-depth consideration of how historical context and the writer's craft impact the presentation of key ideas relating to the theme of love.
French	In Term 1, Year 12 students have studied the topic of 'Family' looking at how families, relationships and marriage have evolved over the years in France and French-speaking countries. In Term 2, they have studied the topic of 'Digital Technology' and how it has transformed everyday life. Within this subject area, they have worked on expressing their opinions and developing their translating skills. The students have watched the film ' <i>La Haine</i> ' and focused on analysing the key characters. The grammar focus has been to revise object pronouns and key tenses; present, imperfect, perfect and future. The recent assessment consisted of 3 papers testing skills such as translating from French to English and English to French, reading comprehension, summary writing and grammar.
Geography	Year 12 students are studying 'Global Migration' as part of their Human Geography unit and 'Glaciated Landscapes' as part of their Physical Geography unit. This grade is based on their performance across the subject since the start of year 12.
History	For Unit 1, students have explored the reasons for the period of political isolation experienced by Winston Churchill from 1930 to 1940 and have begun to learn about his role and decision making as Prime Minister during the Second World War. For Unit 3, students have examined the way Anglo-Saxon England was ruled and its relationship with the Church. Students have considered the Norman Conquest and the changes it brought about. Students are currently focusing on the reign of William I, the problems he faced, and the ways the government changed to strengthen royal authority. The attainment grade in this report is informed by essays completed for both units and regular assessment of knowledge.
Law	In A-level Law, students spent Term 1 working on the Criminal Justice System to gain an understanding of the courts, lay participants in the justice process (jurors and lay magistrates), legal personnel (solicitors, barristers and legal executives), judges, and associated procedures such as preliminary hearings, legal funding, bail, trials and appeals. This knowledge is examined for Paper 1 by short answer questions (1, 5 or 7 marks) and is referred to as non-substantive subject content. It provides the foundations for our Term 2 studies on Criminal Law, which begins with an introductory look at concepts that run through Paper 1 such as the <i>actus reus</i> , causation, strict liability, and the <i>mens rea</i> . By Christmas, we will also have looked at the non-



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	fatal offences. This knowledge is examined for Paper 1 by short and longer answer questions (1, 5, 10, 23, 30) and is referred to as the substantive subject content.
Maths	In term 2, students have studied the topics of vectors, polynomials, differentiation and graphs. The detail of the course can be found on the Mathematics website: https://mathematics.bourne-grammar.lincs.sch.uk/BGSmathsKS5.html . Please be aware that the attainment grades are only based off the first test of the year due to the early reporting deadline. Students have since completed a second assessment so should have a more recent reflection of their ability.
Further Maths	In Term 2, the AS Mathematics syllabus (OCR H230) will be close to completion and students will soon start the AS Further Mathematics (OCR H235) course of study. Due to this, the grade given only reflects what a student is achieving in Mathematics, not in Further Mathematics. Alongside this, student progress has been continually monitored through submission of online assignments and teacher marked topic assessments. Should we feel there is cause for concern extra help is put in place to support the students.
Media Studies	Year 12 Media Studies students have completed their first exam unit in advertising. Here they have deconstructed the media language and representation across several advertisements from different industries. Social and cultural contexts and academic theory have also been evaluated against core brand ideologies. They have also gained an insight into Adobe Photoshop, creating their own campaign advert from scratch.
Music	Year 12 have continued their study of baroque solo concertos by looking at Vivaldi's <i>Il Gardellino</i> flute concerto. This has allowed them to keep building up their knowledge of the baroque period, also helped by answering some exam style questions. They have also continued their harmony lessons, which are building towards harmonising a chorale in the style of Bach. This will form part of their composing coursework, with the chorale brief released by the exam board in September.
Physical Education	Students have been assessed across all three sections of the course with a variety of types of questions: multiple choice, short response and some extended ones. This grade does not include their practical assessments which will be included next reporting period.



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Physics	The attainment grade is based on the student's average attainment on the end-of-topic tests completed so far this year.
Politics	Students are being prepared for three papers at A-Level. The examining body is Pearson/Edexcel. Paper 1: UK Politics and Core Political Ideas. Paper 2: UK Government and Non-Core Political Ideas. Paper 3: Comparative Politics - the Government and Politics of the USA. Each paper is worth a third of the overall result at A-Level. In Term 2 - with Miss Davis-Williams, who teaches 6 out of the 9 lessons - the students have been examining the advantages and disadvantages of various electoral systems. In Term 2 - with Mr Tighe, who teaches 3 out of the 9 lessons - the students have been considering the nature of the United States Constitution and Federalism.
Psychology	Year 12 psychologists have begun their journey through the AQA A-Level specification by studying the 'Approaches to Psychology' and 'Research Methods' topics. They have been introduced to how to study successfully in the subject using our 'core questions' and should be testing their knowledge (AO1) regularly, as well as independently looking at short answer questions and paragraphs testing their 'application' (AO2) and 'evaluation' (AO3) skills. These topics, and skills, were the ones assessed in their recent test, the results of which form the basis for this report. Any grades or projections based on this early performance, however, are highly provisional and should be treated with great caution.
Religious Studies	Students are being prepared for three papers. The examining body is Eduqas. Paper 1D: Study of Religion - Buddhism Paper 2: Philosophy of Religion. Paper 3: Religion and Ethics. Each paper is worth a third of the overall result at A-Level. In the 'Study of Religion - Buddhism' aspect of the course, the students have been moved on from the events of the Buddha's life to his key teachings. In the 'Philosophy of Religion' aspect of the course, the students have been examining whether the presence of suffering and evil in the world proves that a god does not exist. In the 'Religion and Ethics' aspect of the course, the students have been considering the value of virtue ethics in shaping of our moral decision making.
Sociology	Year 12 students have begun the Sociology course with an introduction to core Sociological theory, including the Functionalist, Marxist, Feminist, and Postmodernist perspectives. This has formed the foundation from which all the other units are built, including the Culture and Identity topic being studied at present. Students have learnt about the different approaches to culture, and they are in the process of learning how individual identity is formed and the agents of socialisation which contribute to this. Running concurrently is a focus on



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	exam skills and writing technique; students have begun learning how to apply, analyse, and evaluate key concepts with relation to contemporary issues.
Spanish	The assessment data in this report is based on a range of listening, reading and translation assessment questions which students completed at the end of Term 1. This Term students have begun studying the context, themes and characters of the film ' <i>María Llana Eres de Gracia</i> ' which will lead onto learning how to write an analytical essay. They have also consolidated their knowledge of key tenses and learned about aspects of regional identity in Spain.