



# WALTON HIGH SCHOOL

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PROUD TO BE A PART OF



Headteacher: Mr N D Finlay BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers: Mr B Fletcher BSc (Hons) MSc

Dr J Rowley PhD BSc (Hons)

March 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I am aware of some confusion with regard to our current KS3 assessment system. In particular, I know that many parents have been surprised by the discrepancy between target and "working at" grades across different subjects. I have, therefore, come to the conclusion that we need to rethink our system in readiness for our new KS3 curriculum in September. I have already set up a working party and their brief has been to develop a simple, straightforward and easily understandable solution. I have seen their initial proposals and I am very much encouraged by them.

In the meantime, I have decided to return to our previous system which parents seemed to understand for the remainder of this academic year, starting with the Year 8 reports which are due for publication this month. This system works on an estimated GCSE grade for your child, based on his/her prior attainment, and asks the member of staff to let you know whether your child is: working above target (A), working on target (O), working towards target (W), or working below target (B). Please focus on this judgement for the remainder of this academic year.

Please accept my apologies for this confusion. The government abandoned KS3 national curriculum levels two years ago and asked each school to develop their own system. Ours was developed with the best of intentions but I feel it is important to recognise when something is not working. Please rest assured, however, that your child is still receiving the same level of teaching at Walton which has led to over a decade of outstanding examination results.

We will invite parents of current Year 7 students to a forum to discuss our new improved system during the summer term.

Many thanks for your understanding in this matter and your continued support.

Yours sincerely

**N D FINLAY  
HEADTEACHER**