



# **Highclare School**

## **Academic Information for Upper Third to Upper Fourth (Year 7 to Year 9, i.e. Key Stage 3)**

## Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 (KS3) is the first three years of senior school – years 7, 8 and 9. At Highclare these are known as:

Year 7 – Upper Third (U3)

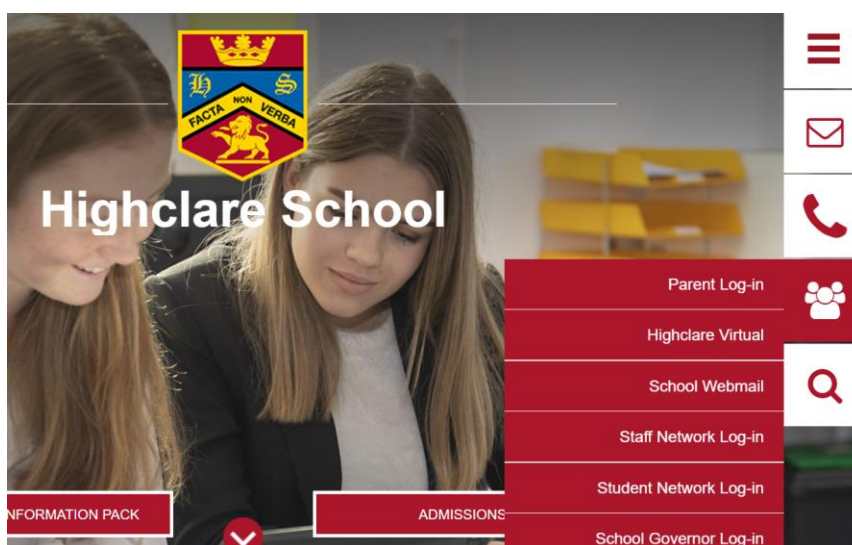
Year 8 – Lower Fourth (L4)

Year 9 – Upper Fourth (U4)

## Highclare Virtual

Highclare Virtual is our virtual learning environment. Pupils and parents are able to access Highclare Virtual from home via the school website or app.

Parents can view their child's timetable, homework tasks and termly reports on Highclare Virtual, as well as a wealth of other information about school life.



## **Target Setting**

Q. Why set targets?

- To give realistic grades for which to aim, that are challenging but achievable.
- To improve pupil engagement in the learning process - grades are not something that happen to pupils at the end of the year – they are something they can take responsibility for achieving.

Q. What information will be used to set targets?

- The Midyis aptitude test scores - this is a computer-adaptive test which assesses four areas: vocabulary, mathematics, non-verbal reasoning and skills and gives an overall score which is a measure of potential
- Entrance examination scores
- The standard of work so far this term

Q. When will pupils find out their target grades?

- After half term, along with their first interim report of the year.

Target grade descriptors:

<b>KS3 Target Band</b>	<b>Likely GCSE target*</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Will typically target Grade 7-9 at GCSE</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Will typically target Grade 6-7 at GCSE</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>Will typically target Grade 5-6 at GCSE</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>Will typically target Grade 4-5 at GCSE</b>

Based on these targets, at each reporting point students will receive a progress grade as follows:

<b>Progress vs target grade</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>+ +</b>	<b>Student currently working above their banding</b>
<b>+</b>	<b>Student currently working at the upper end of their banding</b>
<b>=</b>	<b>Student currently working at their banding level</b>
<b>-</b>	<b>Student currently working at the lower end of their banding</b>
<b>- -</b>	<b>Student currently working below their banding</b>

Here are some frequently asked questions and answers:

Q. Can a pupil aim higher than their target?

- Targets will be the **minimum** grades we think they should be aiming to achieve by the end of the U4, and then on to GCSE. Pupils who consistently exceed their target grade will be encouraged to aim for a challenge grade that is higher.

Q. Will targets remain the same throughout KS3?

- Targets will be reviewed at the end of the summer term and may be raised to provide extra challenge in the next academic year.

Q. How will pupils know if they are on target?


- They will have assessments in each subject every term.
- Pupils receive termly progress reports with grades for each subject and traffic light colours to indicate if they are on target.

Q. What if they are not on target?

- They will discuss this with their personal tutor in their report tutorial. Pupils meet with their personal tutors individually three times a term.
- They should follow the advice on their reports and the improvement targets in their books.

# Reports

Here are two examples of an interim progress report.

		<b>Highclare School</b> <b>Progress Report for ... .., U3S</b>		<b>Spring Term 2022</b>
Subject	KS3 Target Band	Current Progress vs Target	Attitude to Learning	Comment
English	B	-	Good	When writing PEA paragraphs, ..... should think about the writer's use of techniques and their effect on the reader. BLS
Mathematics Set 2	D	-	Some improvement needed	... works well in class but must ensure all homework is completed on time. HB
Science	A	-	Good	... must ensure he is focused and on-task during lessons. He should try and think about his answers in more detail before attempting a question. FA
French	D	=	Good	
Geography	C	--	Good	... should ensure that he revises thoroughly for class tests and assessments. CSA
History	C	--	Some improvement needed	... needs to put in a greater all round effort as the standard of his work is not as high as it should be and he misses too many homework deadlines. MW

Mathematics Set 1	B	=	Excellent	
Science	A	+	Excellent	
French	B	+	Excellent	
Geography	A	=	Excellent	... continues to work extremely hard and has shown an excellent understanding of our recent geographical skills topic. CSA
History	A	=	Excellent	
Religious Studies	A	=	Excellent	... is a model pupil and has worked hard to gain a good understanding of Judaism this term. CSA
Art	B	=	Excellent	... continues to produce high quality work, and is able to work independently. She achieved a high grade on her assessment drawing of a crushed cola can. KS
Design Technology	B	+	Excellent	
Drama	A	=	Excellent	

## Homework

The development of good independent learning skills is essential for success.

- U3 pupils should be completing approximately 1 hour homework per night, increasing as they move up through the school.
- Homework tasks should always be fully completed to the best of their ability and must be handed in on time.
- Parents can view homework tasks on Highclare Virtual, accessed via the parent portal.
- We ask that you check your child's planner regularly and sign it every weekend. Planners are checked by form teachers on Mondays.

## **Attendance**

- All pupils should be aiming for 100% attendance and 95% should be attainable by all pupils.
- 90% attendance is equivalent to half a day missed every week.
  - Over a school year this is 4 weeks or 100 lessons lost.
  - Over 5 years this is half a year of education lost.
- Pupil achievement is directly related to attendance.
- Family holidays should not be taken in term time.

## **Punctuality**

- All pupils should arrive at school by 8.30am.
- Pupils who are late to school have a stressful start to the day, are less organised and suffer disruption to their learning.
- A child who is 15 minutes late everyday will miss the equivalent of 9 days of school over the year.
- Reaching 5 lates within a half term could result in further consequences, e.g. a Head's Detention



## Key Dates

Thurs 29 Sept 2022	U3 and new pupil parents' Information and social evening
Mon 12 Dec 2022	U3 to U4 Autumn term progress reports
Tues 17 Jan 2023	U4 parents' evening (inc GCSE options presentation)
Mon 13 Mar 2023	U3 Spring term progress reports
Wed 15 Mar 2023	U3 parents' evening
Mon 20 March	L4 Spring progress reports
Mon 20 March	L4 parents' evening
Mon 27 March	U4 Spring progress report
15 – 19 May 2023	U3 to U4 Study/Revision week
22 – 26 May 2023	U3 to U4 school examinations
Mon 26 June 2023	U3 full reports
Mon 3 July 2023	L4 and U4 full reports

### Contact with School:

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Telephone: 0121 373 7400

[www.highclareschool.co.uk](http://www.highclareschool.co.uk)

Mr M Coles

Deputy Head of Senior School

October 2022