



Smithdon High School
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6 January 2026

Dear Parent

Following your child's first term of their GCSE studies, please be aware that your child's initial report will be available for you to view on the MCAS app later today. This report gives details of initial Attitude to Learning Grades in each subject. Students will also receive a hard copy in form time this week.

The report also gives a Target Minimum Grade for each subject. This is calculated based on Key Stage 2 performance, and this is the minimum grade that we would expect students to achieve given expected rates of progress from Key Stage 2.

Should you have any questions about these reports, please contact the relevant teacher or Head of Department.

Attendance

When considering attendance, please use the following as a guide: -

100% - Excellent	Students have every opportunity to succeed
96-99% - Good	Students who attend over 96% of the time are more successful in their lives. This means no more than 7.5 days off school in one year (but they still missing 41 hours of learning)
90.1-95.9% - Below Expectations	91% attendance = missing an average of 17 days of school (93.5 hours of learning) in a year. This means results achieved at GCSE are likely to be at least one grade lower than they could have been and 17 hours of social time missed.
90% and below – Persistent Absence	Students with less than 90% attendance are classified as persistently absent. As a result, they are unlikely to gain 5 GCSEs. If your child falls below 90% attendance and into this category, you will be contacted for intervention by the school and/or Local Authority in order to help improve their attendance.

Assessments this term

The first set of Year 10 assessments will take place in classrooms for optional subjects during the week commencing Monday 16 March. During the week commencing Monday 23 March students will take exams in the core subjects of Maths, English and Science. These will take place in the Sports Hall. I will be writing to you again nearer the time with further details of these exams along with an exam timetable.

In May, you will receive a full report for your child and will be invited to the Year 10 subject parents evening on Thursday 21 May.



Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. H. Chapman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr S Chapman
Assistant Headteacher