



16 October 2023

HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 GCSE Targets 2023-24 – Yellis Testing

As our Year 10 students begin their GCSE journey, we usually generate individual aspirational students targets for each of their GCSE subjects based upon their Y6 SATS data, Y7 CAT tests and general progress data from KS3. We refer to these as 'Statistical Targets' as they are generated using a national database, to give us the probability of a student of a certain age, birth month and gender, with a certain level of prior attainment, securing a certain grade at GCSE level. The statistical target is the most likely grade outcome given all the factors mentioned, for a child in our school context.

As our current Year 10 students were not given the opportunity to sit their SATS during the pandemic, we are planning to run "Yellis" assessments with the full year group. The test results will give us an objective perspective of our students' current strengths and weaknesses and provide an indication of how they are likely to perform at GCSE. These 'Statistical Targets' will then be shared with students and will be visible on student reports as we go through Year 10 and 11. The targets will help us to track the progress of each student across Key Stage 4 and will give students something ambitious to aim for as their final goal.

As progress is not linear and assessments do not always cover the whole of the content covered in the final exam, the results students achieve in common assessment tasks (CATs) across the year may be above or below their target grades. This is quite normal, but importantly acts as a guide to support what support is needed for each child, helping them to fill any gaps, consolidate their learning and make the further progress they need to achieve their potential.

Yellis stands for **Year Eleven Indicator System**. It is an adaptive baseline assessment from 'Cambridge Centre for Evaluation & Monitoring' (CEM) which helps us to establish a baseline measure of ability. Similar in format to the CAT tests taken in Year 7, the assessments measure a range of verbal, non-verbal and mathematical skills and are adaptive. This means they use a student's responses to decide whether to progress to more challenging questions, or to return to easier ones. Essentially, the assessment automatically adapts to a child's ability. No two students will, therefore, sit the same test.

More information can be found through the following link: [Yellis for ages 14-16 \(secondary school assessment\) \(cem.org\)](https://www.cem.org/yellis-for-ages-14-16-secondary-school-assessment)

Students will be taking their 50-minute tests during Big Picture Lessons over the coming few weeks. No preparation is needed in advance of this test.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. We plan to publish the statistical target grade on the first report.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Moat
Associate Headteacher