



HARROGATE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 GCSE Targets 2024-25 – Yellis Testing

In preparation for Year 9 students beginning their GCSE studies in September, we are in a position where we need to generate some individual, aspirational targets for each of their GCSE subjects.

Historically these would be based upon Year 6 SATS data, Year 7 CAT tests and general progress data from Key Stage 3. Due to the pandemic, students were not given the opportunity to sit their SATS and we do not, therefore, have the level of data that we would normally have to set target.

To overcome this, we are planning to run Yellis assessments with the whole year group. The test results will give us an objective measure of current strengths and weaknesses, providing an indication of how a student is likely to perform at GCSE. These targets will then be added to individual student reports through Year 10 and 11, helping both students and staff to monitor and support progress.

Yellis stands for **Year Eleven Indicator System**. It is an adaptive baseline assessment from Cambridge Centre for Evaluation & Monitoring (CEM) which can help us establish a baseline measure of ability in a way that is inclusive and can accommodate the full range of student abilities. Yellis is well established and widely used across the UK.

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 that 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. As a result, no two students will sit the same test. More information can be found through the following link: Yellis for ages 14-16 (secondary school assessment) (cem.org)

It is important to note that preparation is not necessary for this test. Students will be taking their 50 min tests during Big Picture lessons over the coming weeks. We will then share the target grades with you in the Autumn term.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information moatk@hgs.rklt.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Moat

Associate Headteacher