



1536



1701

# THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

*Love as Brethren*

Headteacher: Ms Sue Hay, BA(Hons), PGDip, NPQH

St Mary's Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 3HS

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Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to offer a very warm welcome to all the parents of Year 7 students, and take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Mrs Harris and I am Assistant Head responsible for curriculum, assessment and reporting.

Over the past 18 months all our departments have been working extremely hard on a new KS3 curriculum, which is still in its infancy. There is some information regarding the KS3 curriculum on our website, but we are currently redesigning that section so please be aware that not all the relevant information has been uploaded yet.

For a number of years we have used an online system called 'Go4Schools', which analyses and shares assessment data in real time, as well as recording useful information such as attendance, behaviour, and your child's timetable. You may already be familiar with this software but attached is a booklet with more information.

I want to draw your attention to the assessment data section of 'Go4Schools', as this is where you will find data regarding how your child is performing in each of their subjects. Over recent months we have made some changes to assessment in the school, and you will see that assessments in each subject will be one of two types:

**A booklet is attached with greater detail and examples of what this will look like. Please refer to it alongside the information below.**

Do please take the time to read through this booklet, and feel free to contact me with any questions; my email address can be found at the end of this letter.

## **Low Stakes**

Testing which will happen on a regular basis, for example a quick quiz to check learning which could be set as either a homework task on google classrooms or in a lesson as a starter. These will be very short and appropriate to the topic in hand. As such will only carry a small mark and will put students into bands of mastery measured in tens. Although they may form part of the 'current' grade they will fluctuate throughout the year depending on the difficulty of the topic. Attached is an example of what this may look like on GO4S.

## **High Stakes**



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Tests in years 7, 8 and 9 will now be marked in percentages, except for year 9 maths as they will continue to use GCSE grades. These marks will appear in GO4S over time but we do not envisage any to be there until at least the end of this term.

These are summative assessments which measure overall performance, understanding, knowledge and retention and would, during the course of the year eventually be the sole contributor to your son/daughter's 'current' grade.

Progress will appear with colour coding on GO4S. You should not expect your son/daughter to be anything other than red at the start of the year as in many cases the subjects will be totally new to them.

## **CATs Tests**

At the start of the year all students sat CATs tests, information which was sent to you at the time with details of the tests. The results of these tests will be available as a report on GO4S in the next few days and you will be informed once they are available to view. The reports identify strengths and provide some feedback with suggestions on how students can develop their skills. You will be able to access the report for your child on GO4S as explained in the attached booklet.

We would usually use the SATs scores as a baseline (starting point) for students but as this information is not available, we will use results from these CATs tests together with the results of any initial baseline test.

## **Reading**

Something we are very passionate about is that all students should be reading on a regular basis. It is an essential life skill. There is also evidence that students who do not read on a regular basis suffer when it comes to accessing the more complicated language in exams.

We all know that reading is a crucial part of learning. It is also highly enjoyable! There have been many educational studies published which show that reading can make a large difference to academic achievement. Evidence suggests that children who read every day develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. Reading both fiction and non-fiction is very important. Reading non-fiction will help students to increase their subject specific vocabulary and enable them to access their studies at a higher level. This is why we want to encourage students to read and support them to have regular access to high quality works of fiction and non-fiction



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The library saw a massive overhaul last year and most books were replaced with more up to date reading for teenagers.

Alongside this we also acquired a full set of laptops and kindles which under normal circumstances would be available during school time to use in the library. As soon as we can resume this, we will update you.

We signed up to 'Reading Cloud' which we believe will now be a life saver for reading to continue.

This allows students to login to the library from home and reserve a book. All they need for this is their school email address which they should now be very familiar ending with [@cooperscoborn.org.uk](mailto:@cooperscoborn.org.uk) and their 8digit date of birth, so 25/12/2008 would be 25122008, no slashes.

The librarian will then pack the books in individual labelled bags to be collected by a member of staff and distributed during their English lesson. The books will be on a normal loan so they can take them home.

The same system will be in place for the return of the books.

In May this year we also subscribed to a wonderful reading resource for all students to log into, called myON.

In the booklet you will have a link to a video and details of how to take advantage of this facility as there are over 5000 books to choose from. The decision to renew it for next September will depend solely on its usage.

Some of the features include the choice of having the books on audio, ability to highlight certain parts and look up words in a built-in dictionary, access to child friendly latest news and the facility to change the language in audio.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me:

[jha@cooperscoborn.co.uk](mailto:jha@cooperscoborn.co.uk)

Yours

Marie-Jose Harris

Assistant Head