

To: Middle & Upper School Parents

22nd October 2008

Dear Parents

Gradings on Reports

At the end of last term, I wrote to you explaining how we had revised and improved the reporting arrangements for this academic year. The schedule, which I enclosed with my letter, can be found on our website under 'downloads' should you wish to refer to it. The purpose of this letter is to explain the systems of grading which are employed in the Middle School and Upper School which may be unfamiliar to you. First, there is a four point range of **Effort grades**:

A	-	Consistently Excellent
B	-	Very Good
C	-	Generally Good
D	-	Inconsistent/Improvement Needed

In addition to this, for examined subjects in Years 6, 7 and 8 we also give **Attainment grades**. These are on a scale of 1-10:

10	-	Outstanding
9-8	-	Excellent
7-6	-	Good
5	-	Moderate
4	-	A few areas of weakness
3	-	Experiencing difficulty
2-1	-	Low

For us, the key indicator is the Effort grade as not all children will necessarily be able to achieve at very high levels across the curriculum. However, they should all be capable of gaining high Effort grades and we place most emphasis on this. The Attainment grades are benchmarked across the whole year group in all subjects to give you an idea of your child's performance relative to the peer group; the Effort grades, however, are entirely related to an individual's performance. We do adhere carefully to the gradings and if, say, a 'C' is scored it is not a poor grade: it is as the description says - "Generally Good". By their nature, 'A' grades ("Consistently Excellent") will obviously be harder to achieve.

I hope you find this helpful when interpreting the grades which appear on your children's reports.

With kind regards