



Seahaven Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

14th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

Key Stage 3 Rank Order Assessment

I am writing to inform you about the process we will be using to report assessment at Key Stage 3 for this academic year. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum provides a broad and balanced learning experience in which the knowledge and skills acquired underpin success at Key Stage 4.

Having completed the January assessment window, we will be providing you with the following information for all subjects that use formal written examinations;

- Raw score
- Average raw score across the cohort
- Highest raw score across the cohort
- Statement linked to progress compared to Key Stage 2 attainment (years 8 and 9) and students' academic profile collated through assessments completed in term 1 (year 7).

In addition, for the EBACC subjects (English, Maths, Science, French, Geography and History) we will provide you with your child's assessment position within the year. We will also be displaying this information in an anonymised form to the students at the same time.

We are constantly looking for ways to help students achieve the highest possible outcomes and to boost motivation. United Learning schools have found that providing students and parents/carers with rank order information is one of the most effective ways to do this. Initial concerns are always about potentially demotivating those who appear lower in the rank. When these concerns are overcome, rank order proves to be a useful and effective piece of information to know. The model transcends the constant changes in education labelling and puts understanding achievement firmly back in the hands of students and parents/carers. This information already exists within school however we are now making this information available to students and parents/carers. When we used this model last academic year, students identified specific areas to improve on their own position, both in individual subjects and how these could positively influence their overall position in the year group.

This approach may raise issues and possibly concern some parents/carers. It is a process that we carefully considered last year before introducing. To support parents/carers and students we have sought answers to many of the questions that may arise. Attached to this letter is a 'Frequently

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Asked Questions (FAQ)' document and a link to a PowerPoint explaining some of the intricacies of the system.

At all times we will be providing the support needed for students to improve from whatever position they find themselves. We believe that this approach to assessment will help raise the achievement of all students at the school.

Thank you for your continued support as parents/carers as we strive to be ambitious for all our young people.

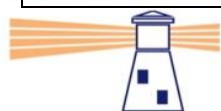
Yours sincerely

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FAQs	Answers
What is rank order assessment?	<p>Rank Order Assessment is the process of assessing students, through formalised examinations. Assessments will take place biannually in January and June. Students will be ranked in order of performance based upon the percentage achieved in each assessment. Rank order assessment will be used for individual subjects and overall across a range of subjects.</p> <p>The subjects that will be assessed using rank order will be English, Maths, Science, French, Geography and History.</p> <p>Rank order assessment will be used for students in Key Stage 3 – Year 7, 8 and 9.</p>
What will rank order assessment look like?	<p>Each student will be given a unique four-digit code. All rank order displays in school will be anonymised using the unique four-digit code. The rank order will show performance from highest to lowest percentage, student attendance, their attitude and performance in homework and their movement compared to the previous assessment.</p> <p>The rank orders will be displayed in corridors outside of the associated subject.</p>
Why are we doing rank order assessment?	<p>Rank order assessment has been proved to raise aspirations, motivation and ultimately increase the performance of students across secondary school. Rank order assessment creates a culture of self-competition. Initial concerns are always about potentially demotivating those students who appear lower in the list. When these concerns are overcome, students thrive upon improving their rank through increased performance. As a school will additionally provide students with a statement linked to their performance compared to Key Stage 2 data.</p> <p>Students can gain success through rank order in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased percentage performance in the associated examination • Increase rank order position • Positive progress against Key Stage 2 data



How will we support students who find themselves at the bottom of a rank order?	<p>Students who finish towards the bottom of the rank order will receive bespoke intervention where appropriate and, in some cases, parents/carers will be invited in for a meeting with a member of the Leadership Team to dissect the possible reasons for a low rank order. Intervention may include in class provision, tutor or after school sessions, support with reading and opportunities to enhance literacy and numeracy.</p> <p>The biggest cause of underachievement in GCSE examinations is low attendance. Students with attendance below 96% are likely to underachieve by 1.5 grades across all qualifications.</p>
What else will the school do with the rank order information?	The rank order will only be used within school. Information that rank order provides will be used to ensure that all students are making strong progress across the range of subjects. It is important during Key Stage 3 that students develop a strong foundation so that when they progress to Key Stage 4 they are able to build upon and deepen their knowledge and understanding.
When will we rank order?	Rank order assessment will be used at six points across Key Stage 3. Assessments will take place in January and June of each academic year. The assessments used to generate the rank order will be created by the United Learning subject advisors in conjunction with each department. Rank order assessment will be used to ensure that the setting in Maths is appropriate.
How will the overall rank order be worked out?	The overall rank order will be generated using the following process. English and Maths will be triple weighted, Science will be double weighted and all other subjects will be single weighted. This reflects the nature of the GCSE examination system in which English and Maths are essential to ensuring progression into Post 16 education. Science is double weighted because as a GCSE it is worth two grades.
Is it fair that students know if they are ranked at the bottom?	<p>GCSE scores are not based on any kind of arbitrary grade boundaries and are generated by allocating grades on a bell curve. A student who achieves a Grade '1' in a subject is essentially being told they have performed in the bottom 1% nationally in this subject.</p> <p>By providing students with an early understanding of where they sit within rank order system they have sufficient time to address areas for current weakness and achieve a higher rank (and therefore higher grades) by the time they complete their terminal examinations in Year 11.</p>
How as a parent/carers, how can I support my child with rank order assessment?	As a parent / carer the best support that can be provided is by encouraging a positive attitude and taking an interest in the learning. Students who have a high attendance (96% or above) complete all independent work at home through homework and prepare for examinations through revision will be more successful and improve their rank order. Regular contact between school and home can support the learning process and parental consultation evenings provide an opportunity to discuss progress and areas of focus across all subjects.



<p>Will students be rewarded for their rank order?</p>	<p>Students will be rewarded after each rank order assessment. Rewards will be given based upon a variety of criteria and not merely those students who finish at the top of the rank order.</p> <p>Rewards will be given for those students who have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved their rank • Improved their performance across the range of subjects • Working above the level expected based upon Key Stage 2 • Have excellent attendance • Have excellent attitude and performance in homework
<p>What information will be presented to parents / carers after completion of the rank order assessment?</p>	<p>After each assessment parents / carers will be provided with the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage score achieved in each assessment • The highest score achieved in each assessment across the school cohort • The average score achieved in each assessment across the school cohort • The rank order position for each subject • The overall rank order position across the range of subjects • The rank order position for attendance and homework across the school cohort
<p>Can parents / carers refuse to allow their son / daughters name from being displayed on noticeboards?</p>	<p>The noticeboards displayed in school are all anonymised and students are given a unique code that is personal to them. This code will not be shared or displayed at any point. Students are not required to share their unique code with any of their peers. As a school we will consider exemptions for specific reasons.</p>



Rank Order Assessment in KS3



What is Rank Order?

- Rank Order Assessment is the process of assessing students through formalised examinations.
- Pupils are then ranked from top to bottom by performance in each subject.

Assessment Model

Year Group	January	June / July
7	Assessment Point 1	Assessment Point 2
8	Assessment Point 1	Assessment Point 2
9	Assessment Point 1	Assessment Point 2



The Process of Rank Order Assessment

- Rank order assessment will initially be used for English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and French (commonly called the EBACC qualifications).
- Data from class teachers will generate the rank order for each subject.
- We will no longer be reporting GCSE working at grades as these don't provide us with an accurate picture of a student's current performance.

The Process of Rank Order Assessment

- Other subjects that use written assessments will record the percentage achieved by each student in Go 4 Schools.
- Subjects that are practically based (PE, Drama, Music, Technology) that do not use formal written assessments, will record a statement based upon current performance.

Rank Order Information for Students

- Information shared in tutor time to KS3 explaining the process of rank order and highlighting the importance of the assessments.
- On the release date of the Rank Order, tutors will be given instructions about the key features of the document and what to look for.
- Students will be given their unique code to access their data.
- SLT will be available during the release day to discuss the information with students.
- The release date for Year 7-9 will be staggered across the week.

Displaying Subject Rank Order

- Outside each department, the rank order for the subject will be displayed.
- It will contain the following information
 1. Student Unique Code
 2. Current Attendance
 3. Independent Study Statement
 4. Rank
 5. Movement from previous assessment (this will be published on the second round of assessment later in the year).

Displaying EBACC Rank Order

- Outside of SLT offices the EBACC (overall) rank order will be displayed.
- This will be calculated by triple weighting English and Maths, double weighting Science and single weighting Geography, History and French.
- The format will be the same as the subject rank order.

Example of subject Rank Order display

	STUDENT CODE	ATT	INDEPENDENT STUDY	OVERALL RANK	MOVEMENT
2					
3	7047	99.47		1	=
4	7107	98.14		2	=
5	7098	100		3	=
6	7048	92.02		4	=
7	7023	97.87		5	=
8	7018	98.4		6	=
9	7019	95.21		7	=
10	7142	96.81		8	=
11	7118	99.47		9	=
12	7090	98.94		10	=
13	7003	87.23		11	=
14	7106	100		11	=
15	7030	100		13	=
16	7087	97.87		14	=
				15	



Example of overall Rank Order display

Surname	Forename	Attendance	Rank	Maths Raw Score	Maths Rank	English Raw Score	English Rank	Science Raw Score	Science Rank	French Raw Score	French Rank	Geography Raw Score	Geography Rank	History Raw Score	History Rank	Sum All Rank	Public Overall Rank
		99.47	17	113	3	51	5	106	2	95	2	41	3	33	5	38	1
		98.14	51	113	3	46	6	100	3	84	6	40	4	22	33	76	2
		100	1	117	1	56	1	107	1	29	99	43	1	37	3	111	3
		92.02	104	85	34	46	6	80	11	77	9	36	8	26	18	177	4
		97.87	52	99	18	36	20	75	18	85	5	29	19	24	23	197	5
		98.4	44	98	20	35	26	78	15	63	28	43	1	35	4	201	6
		95.21	84	78	43	55	3	67	27	78	8	37	6	31	7	213	7
		96.81	70	104	13	42	8	89	6	38	81	34	10	19	49	215	8
		99.47	17	109	9	56	1	97	4	50	60	22	45	9	96	239	9
		98.94	30	110	7	39	11	80	11	55	51	33	12	3	122	261	10



What Happens Next?

- Subject teams use the data to review intervention required within the subject.
- SLT will identify students who have underperformed across the subjects and implement strategies to support student development.
- Students who have raised a significant concern will meet with SLT and parents to discuss current barriers to learning and how to overcome them.

Reporting to Parents

- The following information will be reported to parents/carers
 1. Percentage achieved in each subject
 2. Average percentage achieved in each subject by the cohort
 3. Highest percentage achieved in each subject by the cohort
 4. Subject Rank
 5. EBACC (overall) Rank
 6. Statement linking progress to data from initial school testing.

How do we manage students who finish bottom?

- The data is anonymous.
- Students who appear low in the rank can achieve success through the comparison to initial school testing data.
- Students with SEND who appear low will be contacted by key workers prior to the release of the rank order data.
- Those that finish low in the rank with a high attendance and high independent study statement will be flagged as needing subject specific or whole school intervention.
- The January Rank Order will be the 'starting point' document and in subsequent assessment windows all students can achieve success through several different means.

Supporting SEND students

- Clear communication between the student's key worker and home.
- Supporting students to see where they have made progress when compared to their starting level.
- Helping students to understand their key areas for development to improve their ranking.
- Providing tailor-made support where appropriate to help students make progress, specifically in English and Maths.

Staff contacts

- Should you have any follow-up questions, please email Mr. Honeybourne on honeybournel@seahavenacademy.org.uk
- If your questions relate specifically to children with SEND, please email Mrs. Macey on maceyc@seahavenacdemy.org.uk