



Approach to Learning Criteria (AtoL)

November Update 2022

All students have now received their first Approach to Learning report along with information on the Gold criteria and a summary of the Torch characteristics. Information was also shared by staff at the Achievement Evening events held at the start of term.

Despite this, there have been a handful of parent/carers that have been in contact so I would like to take this opportunity to provide some more information on the AtoL report criteria.

We are committed to ensuring that all students should be able to learn in disruption free classrooms and we are proud of the positive impact that changes to the behaviour system have had on the quality of student behaviour in all lessons.

At this point, it is important to highlight that a student's approach to learning is not simply a direct measure of their behaviour in lessons, but instead a measure of their effort and commitment to learning. As we strive for the best possible atmosphere across all lessons, we are keen for all learners to be actively involved in the learning and this is demonstrated by a grade 3 in the criteria. You will see that a student that is meeting the Grade 1 & 2 score is going above and beyond and will be someone that is actively seeking opportunities to develop their understanding both in and out of lessons. Please see attachment for a summary of the approach to learning criteria.

Following a review of the criteria over the summer term, additional information has now been added to the criteria to support the awarding of a grade 4 (working towards). As a result, some students may well have noticed that their scores are lower than they were at the end of the summer term. A lower score this term does not therefore indicate that a student's approach to learning has deteriorated but is representative of a score that now considers the additional grade 4 criteria. As previously communicated, please be aware that a Grade 1 is deliberately ambitious and that students are not expected to easily achieve this across subject areas. A grade of 2 or 3 is something to be celebrated whilst also providing students with further room for improvement.

What does a Grade 4 indicate?

The following summary is provided as a summary of a grade 4 (working towards)

Students will show willingness to learn, but can sometimes be reluctant to start tasks and will have to be encouraged through the use of positive framing to engage with the activity. Students are known to get it right, however, are not consistent in lessons, and may have to be reminded to engage with the learning, which limits their own learning and can impact upon the learning of others.

As part of the student reflection process, this information will also be shared with all students so they are able to understand their scores and are then able to set appropriate targets in each of their subjects. Where a student has received a grade 4 in a particular subject, meetings with parent/carers will be arranged to agree on the best way to support the student moving forward.

I hope that the additional information that has been provided helps to support all students and parents/carers. If further information is required in a particular subject, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant subject teacher for clarification.