



GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL

Specialist Music College

Headteacher: Peter Costello MA

Patron: Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM

Choral Patron: Howard Goodall

Boys' Choir Patron: Roger Black



music colleges

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Dear Parents

Key Stage 3 Assessments

We are now in a position to bring you up to date with our position as a school following the decision by the Government to cancel the KS3 Statutory Attainment Tests (SATs) in English, Mathematics and Science. You will probably be aware that your child will not now sit externally marked tests in the Summer Term of 2009. All students will however continue to be assessed in all subjects studied at Key Stage 3 and will be given a National Curriculum level and sublevel at the end of the academic year.

Throughout the Key Stage students study a range of Units of Learning in which they are regularly assessed at appropriate times each term. They are told their levels following assessments, and these are recorded in their planners. This information is then used to provide a current summative level and sublevel for their interim reports, full reports, the end of Key Stage report, and for Parents' Evenings. This practice has been in place over several years, providing us and you with Teacher Assessment levels in all subjects. External test results in previous years gave us additional information for the core subjects only, English, Maths and Science.

Each of the core subjects will continue to assess progress as in previous years. In English the Units of Learning contain three assessments each term, focusing on Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. In Maths the Units of Learning also enable the teacher to make levelled assessments throughout the year, and students will also sit a series of internal tests towards the end of the academic year to complement earlier assessments.

In Science, teacher assessments will provide a good basis for the Key Stage 4 modular structure set down by the examination board. There are 18 discrete Units of Learning in each academic year which include levelled assessments and level based skills activities involving planning, obtaining, analysing and evaluating.

All other subjects will continue to offer Units of Learning, as before, which also lead to levelled assessments and a cumulative level and sub level in the Summer Term. As in previous years, these levels are used to help us decide the best learning group for each student in the core subjects in Key Stage 4, while all option subject groups will remain as mixed ability groups.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any further explanation of our system for assessment and grouping of students at Key Stage 4.

Yours sincerely
D E Marchant
Deputy Headteacher

