



# Parent Briefing

## Formal Consultation

Let me state at the start, that if you have a concern about any aspect of your child's education or a question to ask, please contact us and don't leave it until a Parent Consultation Evening or for it to become a major issue. Start with the BEST Team and your child's Head of House (and you can use 'My Child at School' to ask a question).

At Thorpe St Andrew School, we believe the traditional style of a once a year report does not support your child (or you) in their learning. We believe more regular, up to date but brief information is better, and that falls into three categories.

1. **Regular target setting within a subject.**
2. **Summary grades, indicating the end of Key Stage target levels and progress toward these, subject by subject.**
3. **A face to face Parent Consultation Evening.**

### 1. Regular Target Setting

At the Year 7 Parent Briefing Session, held each September, we explain how work is now marked and what parents can expect to see in books and folders.

Key pieces of work will be marked and a **T** (target) will be set. These targets will be specific to the skills used by the student in that piece of work and indicate what can be improved, when these skills are re-visited. These targets change regularly as your child develops.

By regularly looking through your child's work, together at home, you can discuss the targets indicated.

### 2. Summary Grades

Produced to an annual calendar along with Parent Consultation Evenings (and set out at the end of this briefing), we publish a set of summary grades to keep you informed of your child's progress. You will find these published on 'My Child at School' and they appear there as they are collected from each teacher, so you can be sure they are an up to date picture.

Along with the grades, there will be a very brief comment indicating the teaching view on progress. If the teacher has a concern, the comment will state that they will contact you or ask you to make an appointment at any up and coming Parent Consultation Evening. (Please remember, if you are concerned you really should contact us to share this.)

Reading 'Parent Briefing—Understanding the Grades' will help you understand the summary grades given.



### 3. Parent Consultation Evenings

As already indicated, these take place on an annual programme giving the best coverage for you of receiving grades or talking face to face.

Really, there should be ‘no surprises’ at Parent Consultation Evenings. Any major concerns from you or ourselves should have been raised before and a five minute appointment is not the place for long discussion, if that is what is needed.

We do contact parents if we think attendance at this meeting would be beneficial to your child’s education. However, we would encourage you to attend, whatever your child’s progress; praise is even more important than constructive criticism (although both are needed!).

Finally, we would encourage you to attend the Parent Briefing Evenings we hold for specific year groups. We will contact you in advance of these evenings (and we are using electronic communication more and more). You can also find the dates of these on the school calendar which is on the website and sent in paper form with the School Matters publication at the start of each academic year.

Year Group	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
7	Parent Consultation Evening with Form Tutors, Summary Data		Summary Data with Parental Report, Parent Consultation Evening
8	Summary Data	Parent Consultation Evening	Summary Data and Form Tutor Report
9	Summary Data and Form Tutor Report		Summary Data, Parent Consultation Evening
10	Summary Data	Summary Data	Summary Data and Form Tutor Report, Parent Consultation Evening
11	Summary Data and Form Tutor Report	Summary Data, Parent Consultation Evening, Final Summary Data	
12	Summary Data and Form Tutor Report, Parent Consultation Evening	Summary Data and Form Tutor Report, Parent Consultation Evening	Summary Data
13	Summary Data and Form Tutor Report, Parent Consultation Evening	Summary Data and Form Tutor Report, Parent Consultation Evening	



N.B. You may want to read two other Parent Briefings in conjunction with this document entitled “Understanding the Grades” and “Getting the most out of Parent Consultation Evenings”.