



3rd February 2012

Dear Parent

## Year 10 – Monitoring of Progress

We are currently reviewing how we monitor student progress as a school. With the sophisticated management information system we now have in place, it is much easier to collate information centrally, allowing teachers to monitor all aspects of a student's work and progress, including behaviour and completion of homework.

We are trialling a project, called the Spectrum Support Project, with Year 10. The aim of this project is to support and encourage students who are struggling to reach their potential, with the support provided being proportionate to the needs of the students and the level of progress that needs to be made to ensure they reach their target grades in their GCSE's.

Next week, all Year 10 students will be allocated to a category, or group, based loosely on the traffic light system. The 4 categories will be:

<b>RED</b>	A student who is significantly underperforming against his targets and there are issues regarding homework and behaviour. Students in this category will be monitored by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, initially on a daily basis.
<b>AMBER</b>	A student who is at risk of underperforming in certain subjects and where there are issues of homework and behaviour. Students in this category will be monitored by Mr Manley (Head of Year 10) and Mr Woodcock (Deputy Head of Year) on a weekly basis.
<b>WHITE</b>	A student whose progress, behaviour or homework is causing a concern. These students will be closely monitored by their Form Tutors.
<b>GREEN</b>	A student who is performing well against his targets, is well behaved and has a good homework record.

Much of the information and data being used to allocate students to these groups is derived from your son's termly assessment or his behaviour log and this information can be found using the Eportal link through the school website. However, can I remind students and parents that termly grades need careful interpretation, as some departments base it on a termly test and other departments base it on the term's work. We are trying to ensure more consistency from departments, but this will take time. As a result, we will be fine tuning the Spectrum Support Project as we learn from experience.

I am currently liaising with Mr Manley (Head of Year 10) to finalise the allocation of students to each group and I will inform you shortly the group to which your son has been allocated, what extra support the school will provide and what you can do to work with the school to help your son achieve his full potential. Hopefully, all boys will be allocated to the appropriate group first time. If a boy is misplaced, for whatever reason, we will change his group immediately rather than wait until the end of the half term, but I would expect very few changes to be made, given the information we have used to determine the allocations in the first place.

I have spoken to Year 10 at their assembly and I have explained how this project is intended to support them. It will be both a carrot and stick approach, but hopefully more carrot than stick! Please take a few minutes to discuss with your son about this project and in which group he feels he should be placed. My experience is that when the boys reflect on their progress, etc, they already have a good idea which category they will be allocated to, providing they are being honest with themselves about their current progress, work ethic and behaviour.

The intention is to review the groups each half term and, where boys make improvements, allow them to move to green or the next higher group, as appropriate. However, should issues remain or progress, homework or behaviour slip, a student will be moved to a group where much closer monitoring and intensive support can take place.

As a school, we are determined that all boys should achieve their full potential and strive to be the best they can be. Most boys are able to self manage themselves to achieve this worthy goal; others may need a little more guidance and support from both the school and their parents!

I look forward to your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "T. Cahill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

T Cahill  
Headmaster