

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How does University of Birmingham School provide feedback on my child?

#### Years 7-13

- **What sort of feedback can we expect about my child from UoB School?**

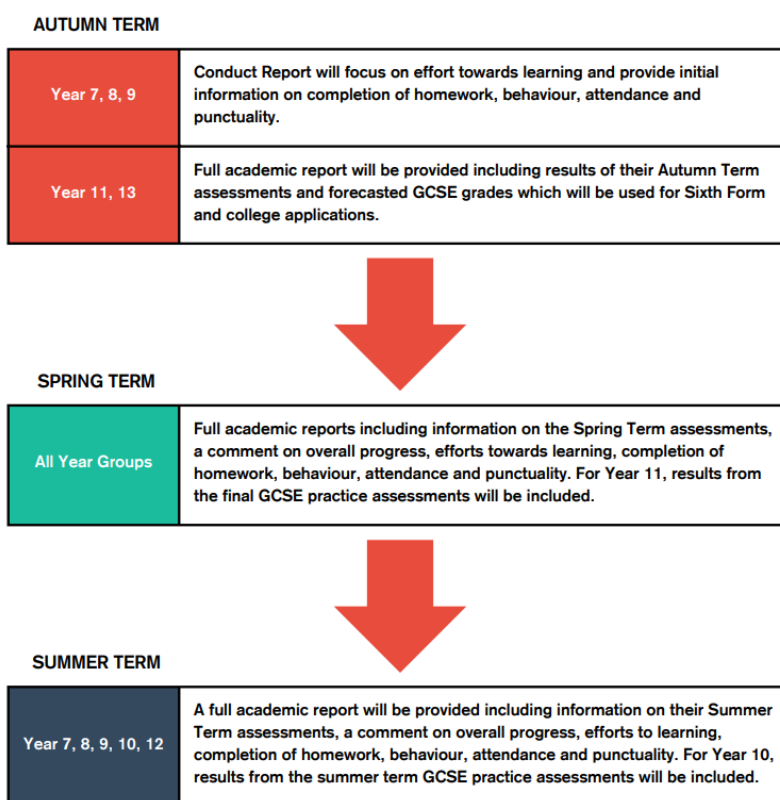
We value your partnership and believe it is a crucial factor in your child's success. Throughout the year, UoB School is intentional and proactive around providing up to date and relevant information to families about how well their child is doing. This includes information about:

- Attendance and punctuality
- Behaviour and rewards
- Recognition of when pupils display their character virtues
- Academic attainment and progress
- Effort and attitude to learning, including towards homework

We provide this information to help inform families and support conversations at home about how well things are going in School and, where appropriate, where things need to improve further.

- **What formal reports does the School provide?**

The School will provide a termly report for all families with a range of information. However, the report for each term will differ:



Further information, and indicative dates for assessments and reports, can be found here:

<https://uobschool.org.uk/examinations-assessments/>

### **Why isn't it possible to receive academic information earlier for Years 7-10?**

The reason for these dates is that before we provide academic information to families, it is important that teachers can properly assess what pupils know and can do. For this to happen, pupils must be taught a core element of the curriculum first. This means we use the Autumn Term to teach knowledge and skills to pupils; assessing pupils too early means the assessments could lack meaning. Pupils must have studied a breadth of content and skills first. We will begin assessments in late December (for Year 10) and across January for Years 7, 8 and 9. Once assessments have been taken, it will take a few weeks for teachers to mark them and then for departments to moderate the marking to ensure that this marking is fair and consistent. This is why the first academic reports for Years 7-10 will come out in the spring term.

For Year 11, their first assessments will take place earlier in autumn term because they have been studying GCSE content since the beginning of Year 10. This means their report can be issued earlier. This first report is particularly important because it is needed for college and Sixth Form applications.

- **Will reports contain written comments from teachers?**

The School reports will not provide personalised comments from teachers. This is because we believe the overall information on the reports provides a thorough level of detail about how well your child is progressing in School. Furthermore, information provided to families in other formats (outlined below) also provides a comprehensive overview of how well pupils are doing in School. One report each year will be aligned with a parents' evening, where families are invited (and strongly encouraged) to attend to meet with teachers and staff at the School or online to discuss in detail how well their child is doing and information about future steps. The dates of our parents' evenings are available here:

<https://uobschool.org.uk/our-pupils/information-for-parents/>

- **How does UoB School provide information about how well my child is behaving?**

Primarily, UoB School uses an app named Class Charts. Class Charts is the most important platform providing up to date information on green stamps (rewards) and amber and red stamps. Families can and should download Class Charts which will provide a personalised daily update on their child's behaviour. Class Charts will also notify you if a detention has been set. Details of how to access Class Charts is here:

[https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class\\_Charts\\_for\\_parents\\_guide.pdf](https://pages.classcharts.com/wp-content/uploads/Class_Charts_for_parents_guide.pdf)

Each termly report will provide the total for that term of green, amber and red stamps gained by your child. The report may provide you with some comments outlining the average number of stamps for that year group, to help you see how your child is doing in relation to their peers.

If staff are especially concerned about your child's behaviour, contact will be made with you from an appropriate member of staff. This is usually a phone call initially.

- **How does UoB School reward my child when they are behaving and performing well?**

We want to encourage our pupils to do the right thing at the right time for the right reason, and not to act well only for a reward or recognition. So whilst we do want to recognise consistent good behaviour, we believe that this should be balanced alongside an expectation that this is the norm for all attending our School.

That said, recognising hard work and excellence is important. Green stamps are our main way of recognising when pupils have done well. In Friday form time, Year Leaders and tutors will recognise individuals who have done particularly well that week and over time. Each week, a pupil of the week is recognised for each year group and is celebrated publicly on the School social media accounts and on the screens around School (only the pupil's first name will be used for GDPR reasons). In addition to pupil of the week, the top green stamp pupil of each year group will also be shared, being added to the Honour Roll list that is shared.

Lapel badges are also distributed to pupils to show certain achievements, which pupils can wear with pride, and praise postcards are regularly sent home to share success with families.

At the end of each term, each year group will have an Awards Assembly. Staff across the School will highlight pupils for a whole range of reasons; certificates and badges will be awarded. These awards are themed around celebrating character through 'intellectual' virtues demonstrated and having a positive impact on our School community through civic virtues. Year Leaders take this opportunity to celebrate other aspects of School success, such as sports teams and participation in music events and trips.

Each pupil, student and member of staff is assigned to a College. Points can be won for Colleges when members of that College demonstrate character virtues. This represents a collective recognition of virtues across the year and across the School.

Each year, the School hosts a Celebration of Character and Excellence Evening at the University of Birmingham to showcase, recognise and celebrate individual and team successes across the School.

- **How does UoB School provide feedback on academic progress?**

Academic progress encompasses several aspects and can be measured in several ways. Academic progress includes how well your child is doing each day in their subject. Ultimately, academic progress is demonstrated by final examinations at the end of Year 11 – GCSEs. However, throughout their time at School, children will make progress in several ways. For example, children can perform exceptionally well in class but struggle to show this in assessments. It is important we report on a wider range of academic progress as possible, whilst recognising that pupils will need to undertake final examinations and it is these which will determine final outcomes once pupils leave School.

Pupils will sit assessments twice a year. This is one very important way we measure and report to you on academic progress.

One of these will focus on shorter assessments and take place in the usual class. The second will involve longer assessments. For Years 10 and 11, some of these assessment weeks will take place in the main hall so pupils can practise the routines for their final examinations.

Full details of these assessments are here:

<https://uobschool.org.uk/examinations-assessments/>

Once pupils have taken these assessments, a School report will be issued which will detail the results. For pupils in Years 7-9, a judgement is given which outlines how well they have done in meeting the skills, knowledge and understanding of each subject:

	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
<b>Year 11 (GCSE Grades)</b>	1 - 3	4 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 9
<b>End of primary School</b>	Below 'expected standard'	At 'expected standard'	Above 'expected standard'	Well Above 'expected standard'

A pupil who meets all the platinum standards as they progress through the School is likely to reach a GCSE grade 8 or 9 at the end of Year 11; a pupil succeeding at gold is heading for grades 6 or 7, and so on, as outlined in the table above.

However, it is important to recognise that progress can be measured in other ways. Therefore, teachers will also record on the academic reports a progress comment. This will look at holistic progress across the subject, including how well the pupil is doing in their classwork and homework. This will be recorded as: making exceptional progress, making steady progress, making some progress and not yet making progress.

It is expected that most of the time, the holistic progress comment will broadly match the assessment grade – so pupils who do well in assessments will tend to do well in their classwork and homework. But this is not always the case. Pupils can achieve very well in class but struggle in assessments; this gives us an important indicator of areas in which your child will need support. Likewise, some perform well in assessments but could work harder in class and at home; this tells its own story and indicates your child could do even better if they applied themselves more.

Finally, discussions at each annual parents' evening are a crucial way in which families can properly understand how well their child is doing in each subject across all areas.

- **How does UoB School inform me about my child's attitude to learning and homework?**

Class Charts provides a live update for you on green, amber and red stamps which can therefore give a good indicator of your child's attitude to learning and any missed homework tasks. Class Charts also identifies the homework tasks your child has been set, so you can ensure they are keeping on top of the work that needs to be done.

School reports and parents' evening also provide another important piece of termly information outlining your child's attitude to learning and homework. The School report will directly detail your child's effort in every subject. It will indicate whether your child is working exceptionally hard, working hard enough or whether they could work harder. Likewise, the School report outlines the number of missed homework assignments for that term.

If there are considerable concerns, relevant staff will make contact with you.

For those pupils performing very well, the School recognises that rewards and recognition matter. Above details how the School recognises excellent effort.

- **How does UoB School keep me up to date with my child's attendance and punctuality?**

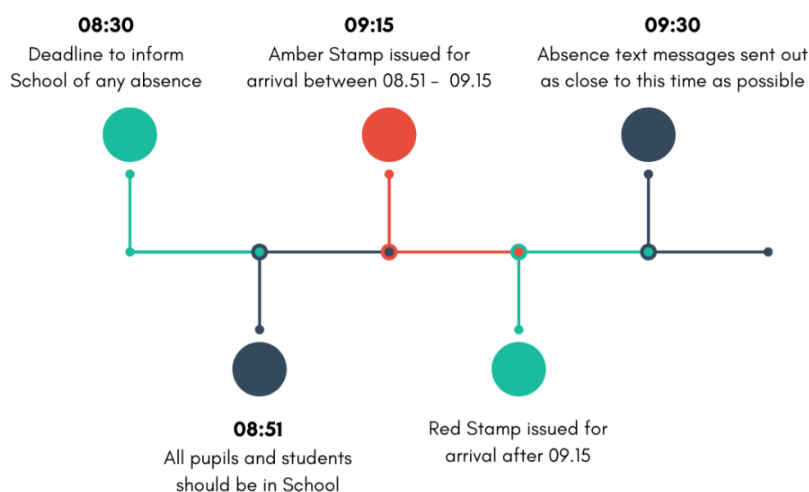
Every term the School will directly report your child's overall attendance and punctuality for the year to date. This will be in the form of an Attendance Certificate. Information on how to interpret the data and what it means for your child's academic achievements and personal development will accompany the Attendance Certificate communication.

Daily attendance updates will also be provided on ClassCharts. This includes two register sessions per day - AM (morning) and PM (afternoon). You will be able to track your child's daily attendance from your mobile device. Your child is expected to attend School every day. Attendance is the single most important factor underpinning your child's success at School.

Your child is to arrive to School on time every day (08:45), except in cases of illness or another legitimate reason which can be evidenced. If your child is absent, parent(s)/ carer(s) must contact the School by 08:30 on the day of absence to report the reasons why their child cannot attend School. If an absence lasts for more than one day, it is the parent/ carer's responsibility to keep the Attendance Officer informed (see contact details below).

Here is an infographic of the School's absence daily reporting timeline:

### Absence Reporting Timeline



You can expect staff at School to be in touch if your child's attendance drops below the expected standard. We strive for all of our pupils to have 100% attendance and will be concerned if your child's attendance drops below 96% percent (this is equivalent to 7.5 days absence over the academic year).

#### Key Contacts:

Attendance Officer: [attendance@uobSchool.org.uk](mailto:attendance@uobSchool.org.uk) 0121 796 5000 (ext 5004)  
 Assistant Principal: [j.bennett@uobSchool.org.uk](mailto:j.bennett@uobSchool.org.uk)  
 Family Support Worker: [p.greaves@uobSchool.org.uk](mailto:p.greaves@uobSchool.org.uk)

- **How else does the School keep me up to date with what is happening?**

There are many ways the School keeps families up to date. Email is the primary method of communication, so do make sure the School has your up to date email address. Likewise, text messages are used for shorter, key, messages. Fortnightly “Looking Ahead” bulletins and termly newsletters give greater information about what has been happening in School and key events coming up.

Our website is also the main source of information:

[Upcoming Events – Looking Ahead Bulletins](#)

[Information for Parents and Carers, including dates for Parents' Evenings](#)

[Dates of assessments throughout the year](#)

[Term Dates](#)

[Pastoral Support](#)

[Health and Wellbeing](#)

- **How can I make contact with someone in School if I have concerns?**

In the first instance, we ask families to make contact with your child's form tutor who will either respond themselves or will co-ordinate a response from the relevant and appropriate member of staff. It is usually easiest to email the form tutor directly. Contact details of your child's form tutor will have been circulated at the start of term.

We ask staff to reply to families within 2 working days. However, please be mindful that teachers will have teaching commitments throughout the teaching day. We want our teachers to be fully engaged teaching their lessons and not responding to emails whilst teaching, so this can cause email responses to take slightly longer. Your understanding and patience with this is much appreciated.