

# FAQ for Parents

## What is a flight path?

It is an estimate of the range of GCSE grades staff think a student should be aiming for when they take their GCSEs. Teachers have planned the curriculum to reflect the flight path expectations for each student. The flight path will vary between subjects.

Students are placed on one of the following flight paths;

- 7-8:** For students who should be aiming for grades 7-8 or higher in their GCSEs.
- 5-6:** For students who should be aiming for grades 5-6 in their GCSEs.
- 4-5:** For students who should be aiming for grades 4-5 in their GCSEs.
- 2-3:** For students who should be aiming for grades up to 4 in their GCSEs.

## What do the flight paths mean?

The main objective of the flight path model is to enable staff, students and parents to assess whether the appropriate progress is being made to achieve the highest possible outcomes. Projections based on attainment at Primary school tell us what grades we would expect students to be achieving at GCSE when they sit exams at the end of Year 11 through a series of checkpoints. Flight paths show what skills and/or knowledge students would be expected to have acquired, and by when, if they are to be on target to achieve those expected outcomes.

## How is the flight path for each subject decided?

This is determined by the professional judgement of our teachers. They will be informed by a variety of information. This includes the attainment scores we receive from primary schools – SATs and teacher assessment, 'base-line' assessments that departments complete during the first few weeks at Ramsey Academy and the outcome of CAT scores. This then informs staff's professional judgement on the right level of challenge for individuals and their understanding of progress rates in their specific subject. Students and parents are informed of their specific flight paths and the reporting system at a Parent Support Evening at the end of the first half term in October.

There will be no requirement for students to be placed on the same flight path for all their subjects. We want to recognise that students may display an aptitude and talent for specific subjects that will lead to improved outcomes.

## Can students change flight paths?

Yes but we aim is to provide consistency and flight path changes will be minimised. Teachers and subject leaders constantly monitor student performance and should the student's performance over time indicate that a higher flight path would be beneficial, it will be raised. It would only be in exceptional circumstances that a flight path would be lowered.

## What information is provided to explain the flight paths?

As a school we actively encourage families to be fully engaged in their child's learning and promote discussion between The Ramsey Academy and home. Departments make available copies of all their flightpaths and supporting information about the structure of their curriculum via the Academy website. This will provide an overview of the order subject content will be covered, the skills and knowledge students should be acquiring to be on target, and the same information for other flightpaths should students aspire to be moved onto a higher flightpath.

## How is information about progress communicated via reports to parents?

Initially, parents will receive a summary indicating the flightpath for each subject. Interim reports are sent home each half-term and a single full report is made available once during the academic year.

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Parents and students receive six reports outlining the progress towards academic targets. This is reported on using one of the five indicators (BRAG rated) shown below:

- 5 The student's performance this half-term indicates that they are exceeding expectations and making substantial progress, meaning they may achieve at least one grade higher than their flight path.
- 4 The student's performance this half-term indicates that they are meeting expectations and making good progress, meaning they are on track to achieve the top end of their flight path.
- 3 The student's performance this half-term indicates that they are meeting expectations and making expected progress, meaning they are on track to achieve the bottom end of their flight path.
- 2 The student's performance this half-term indicates that they are making some progress, but are not meeting expectations, meaning they are on track to achieve one grade below their flight path.
- 1 The student's performance this half-term indicates that they are making very little progress, and are not meeting expectations, meaning they are on track to achieve at least two grades below their flight path.

We encourage parents to use these reports as an opportunity to assist with the student's learning and support us as we work together to ensure the best possible outcomes. Parents and students are asked to look at the outcomes reported for each subject in the report, and review the feedback provided during the half-term, the end of unit assessments and in their books. This highlights their areas of strength and areas for development, but also allows parents to know what it is needing to do to progress further.

## **How does the flightpath model transfer to GCSE targets?**

At the end of Year 9 and following the completion of the options process, the flightpath model is replaced with a specific GCSE target grade based on FFT20 data. Parents and students are invited to a Parent Support Evening to discuss the rationale for the targets and develop an understanding of the 'chances' approach.