Dear Parents,

Many of you have questions about assessments, tests and exams in the National Curriculum we have adapted. The explanation below may help.

**Traditional Exams and Tests**

These are designed to test work covered and mostly memorized before the test itself. There are NO questions of general intellect or intelligence and there are few questions where knowledge is adapted, except at IGCSE level ages 16 years. The test is designed to have average, easy and difficult parts though.

Grading should cover a natural curve of distribution with mostly C’s some B’s few A’s some D’s few E’s. In the past we believe some tests were designed and marked without following this natural curve.

**Assessments and Intelligence tests – (sometimes called Ability tests)**

Assessment tests judge a child’s ability in a subject, irrespective of whether the questions have been studied in class or not. These assessments give the children who deserve an A the opportunity to show they have a higher intellect and UNDERSTAND content they have not been taught – often by adapting basic concepts to new situations. Examples of such tests are IQ tests, Reading tests (words at the end of the test are new and difficult and may never have been seen by a student), and Cognitive Ability tests.

The spread of grades or results is the same.

At IAK we use a combination of these tests.
At IAK in the past some tests were designed, marked and graded by your child’s own teacher. This brings obvious challenges to the reliability of the results.

At IGCSE in Y11 no IGCSE exams are marked by our teachers, none are set or designed by the teachers and all are graded by Cambridge exams.

Only work covered in class will go towards an official IAK grade. Some assessments may combine a child’s learned knowledge in class with questions to test general ability. Only those questions covered in class make an exam grade but of course we need to know if a child is advanced or not in order to plan further assessment.

**Examinations Officer**

Our examination officer is only responsible for IGCSE and A level **entry registration**. All other IAK exams are the responsibility of the teachers or the Heads of section/Dept. Teachers may design in class quizzes.

Regards

Andy Hill - Principal