



“The most effective assessment must have an impact on learning”

In recent years, teachers have moved away from what can be described as ‘tick and flick’ towards an assessment approach that is much more meaningful. At Imberhorne teachers undertake DIRT with students, this stands for Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time. Whilst other forms of assessment and feedback may take place, the critical feedback that we believe helps students to improve, takes time, enabling students to identify and reflect on what areas they can improve on. It is interactive and at its best, is an exchange of ideas between the teacher and a student.

When students have completed a substantial piece of work, this might be an extended piece of writing or an end of topic test, a lesson will then be devoted to feedback and improvement (DIRT). This may take different forms; sometimes the whole class will reflect together, perhaps analysing good practice or collectively sharing best responses. This helps individuals identify where they can further improve their own work. They are then given lesson time to make these improvements. Students are often encouraged to write up their improvements in green pen to show the changes they have made.

When we visit lessons and talk to students they tell us that these approaches really help them learn and improve.

Our assessment systems at Imberhorne School are different in Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) and in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11).

In Key Stage 3 students are placed on a ‘Flightpath’ for each subject. This gives a broad indication about likely performance at the end of Year 11. Flightpaths are formulated from a range of evidence such as: Key Stage 2 prior attainment, benchmark data (from the first term at Imberhorne) and class teacher judgement. Students are allocated to one of four flightpaths. Students are assessed and graded as: **Above / On / Under** their flightpath, at various points throughout each year.



Flightpaths Factsheet

Key Stage 3 Flightpaths

- Flightpath 1 – GCSE grade 1 to 3
- Flightpath 2 – GCSE grade 3 to 5
- Flightpath 3 – GCSE grade 5 to 7
- Flightpath 4 – GCSE grade 7 to 9

In Key Stage 4, students are given ‘Current Grades and Target Grades’. These are GCSE grades (9–1). A target grade is based on prior attainment and teacher judgement generating a grade that students can realistically aspire to achieving. Current grades show the level that a student is working to at a fixed point in time. The expectation is that students will reach their target grades by the end of Key Stage 4 (Year 11).

Target Grades and Flightpaths are reviewed periodically and adjusted when appropriate to reflect any changes in expectations as students progress.