

## Rank Order Assessment Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:

FAQs	Answers
What is Rank Order Assessment?	Rank Order Assessment is the process of assessing students, ideally through formalised examinations, and then ranking them from top to bottom performer in each subject and overall.
What will Rank Order Assessment look like?	Students will be ranked from top to bottom. Next to the rank will appear a anonymised code, student's attendance, their attitude to learning and how many places they have moved since the previous Rank Order
Why are we doing Rank Order Assessment?	We are constantly looking for ways to help students achieve amazing outcomes and to boost motivation and providing students and parents with rank order information as one of the most effective ways to do this. Initial concerns are always about potentially demotivating those who appear lower in the list. When these concerns are overcome, rank order proves to be a useful and effective piece of information to know. GCSE grade boundaries are based on Rank Order and so this is a way of students and parents/carers knowing and understanding where students sit within a rank order as early as year 7 when there is still plenty of time to do something about it.
How will we support students who find themselves at the bottom of a Rank Order?	Students who finish towards the bottom of the Rank Order will receive bespoke intervention where appropriate and, in some cases, parents/carers will be invited in for a meeting with a member of the Extended Leadership Team to dissect the possible reasons for a low rank order. Intervention will include after school sessions, support with reading and opportunities to spend time in our Learning Hub where students can work on literacy and numeracy.
What else will the school do with the Rank Order information?	The information the Rank Order gives us will be used to stream students, with say, your top 30 ranked students being placed in one group, your next 30 being placed in another group, and so on. Streaming means that where possible, students will be in the same 'set' for their subjects.
When will we Rank Order?	We will assess and rank students 4 times over the course of Key Stage 3: It will happen for the first time at the end of year 7 and will determine their stream for the start of year 8; in the middle of year 8 we will do it again and re-stream accordingly; at the end of year 8 they will be assessed ready for their streams at the start of year 9 and then midway through year 9 it will happen for the last time at Key Stage 3. We will rank students twice in year 10 and once more in year 11 following the first round of mock exams.

How will the overall rank be worked out?	We will triple-weight English and Maths and double-weight Science for the overall rank, meaning that the stream students are placed in will largely be determined by their performance in core subjects, but every subject counts.
Is it fair that students know if they are ranked at the bottom?	GCSE scores are not based on any kind of arbitrary grade boundaries and so the student who gets a Grade '1' in, say, their English GCSE in year 11 is essentially being told they have performed in the bottom 1% nationally in their examinations. Why not tell them that is where they are heading in year 8 when there is still time to do something about it? We want students to have an earlier understanding of where they sit within a rank order so that they have plenty of time to address areas for development and achieve a higher rank (and therefore higher grades) come the end of year 11 and beyond.
How as a parent/carer, can I support my child with Rank Order Assessment?	As parents/carers you can support immeasurably by encouraging a positive attitude to learning, independent work at home through homework as well as supporting punctuality and attendance. Students who follow this are far more likely to improve their rank order and will therefore be rewarded for their academic progress.
Will students be rewarded for their Rank Order?	Students who finish near the top of the Rank Order will be rewarded. Students who make the most progress in terms of moving 'up' the Rank Order will also be rewarded.
What if I refuse to allow my child's name to be put up on the noticeboards?	Refusal is not possible, but we will consider exemptions for specific reasons.