

Year 10 Target Setting

“What is the Year 10 target setting approach at Lowton?”

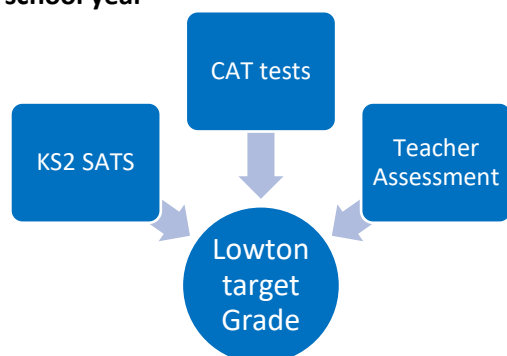
The setting of academic targets is part of our way of setting an ambition for all pupils to make strong and above average progress. FFT (Family Fischer Trust) targets are used as a benchmark for target setting, with targets being set at FFT20. This means that if a pupil meets their FFT20 target at the end of Year 11, they will have made progress in the top 20% of pupils nationally, compared to pupils with a similar starting point. Year 10 pupils studying GCSE subjects are issued with a “Minimum Lowton Target Grade” that has been based upon triangulated data from FFT20, KS2 scores and CAT data.

“What are CAT tests?”

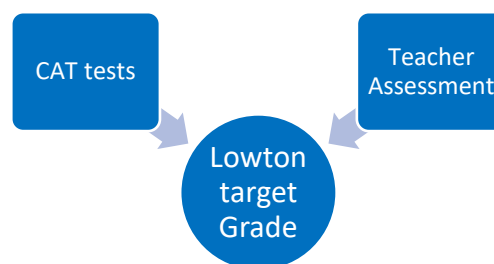
Teachers use CAT (cognitive ability test) tests to gain a greater understanding of pupil abilities. These are nationally standardised tests to assess reasoning skills beyond the normal subject curriculum. CAT tests are used by most secondary schools nationally. When your child arrived in Year 7 they completed a CAT test level D. These results help to inform decisions on target setting and to identify anomalies in Key Stage 2 performance or school-based assessment.

“Due to the Covid pandemic my child didn’t sit their KS2 SATs, what has the school done about this?”

Normal school year



Covid year



Because Year 10 pupils did not sit their end of Key Stage 2 SATs, our target setting approach has been to use the CAT testing and monitor pupils throughout KS3, using teacher assessments. During the Autumn term we have worked to ensure that the targets we set are equitable to the targets set for previous cohorts.

“Why has my child’s target grade changed?”

For most pupils there should be no need to amend their targets. However if a pupil consistently exceeds their target in a subject and the ‘Lowton target’ no longer reflects an acceptable aspiration for the pupil – we will increase their subject target in discussion with the head of department. If a pupil has a diagnosed and recognised cognitive development condition that may require the school to consider that the target should be amended downwards, we may decrease their subject target following advice from the Leadership Director for SEND and Inclusion.

Targets are set to allow school, the pupil and parents to have a sense of what grades to aspire to in their GCSEs. The next whole year group review of targets will be at the end of Year 10 following the end of year mock examinations.