



Rank Order Information

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Community – Integrity - Opportunity

Rank Order Information

We are constantly seeking ways to help students achieve outcomes that will change their lives with the broadest possible choice available to them, and to boost motivation. Other high-performing schools and academies cite 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 on any list. When these concerns are overcome, rank order proves to be a useful and effective piece of information. It puts understanding achievement firmly back in the hands of students and parents.

To be clear, this information already exists. What we are doing is to make it available to parents, carers and students themselves. At all times we offer educational support to students to improve from whichever position they find themselves in. We work tirelessly to ensure the quality of education that we deliver is as strong as possible. Students that invest time and effort in their education achieve the outcomes they are capable of. We see this year after year.

What is Rank Order Information?

We already know roughly the percentage of students in England that will receive each grade in each subject when they open their results envelopes in the summer of Year 11. The percentage in 'normal years' (that is, years not affected by a global pandemic or measures to bring standards back into line) varies very little. What we don't yet know and can still change is which grade each student gets in each subject.

The contents of the results envelope will be the result of a combination of factors:

- The quality of the curriculum and the teaching and learning that takes place.
- The effort and conduct of students in lessons and in school in general.
- The time they spend on learning independently completing homework and revision.
- The amount of time they spend in lessons in school.
- The seriousness with which they approach their studies.
- The additional work they ask for or the questions that they ask as a result of something they'd like to understand better.

Rank order information is provided based on assessing students through formalised examinations, in order to give an idea of where students at Coombe Dean compare to the other students in their year group, before they are compared to the national cohort in August of Year 11. For KS3 we are providing Rank Order Information for the following subjects: English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Languages.

In KS4 we are also averaging judgements about effort, conduct and independent learning in order to demonstrate the effort, conduct and independent learning of students at Coombe Dean

compared to the other students in their year group. For KS4 we are providing academic information for English and Maths at this stage and may widen this to other subjects in time.

Why is ROI a more accurate way to assess students and their progress?

GCSE and Level 2 grades are assigned in the summer after the papers are marked based on the performance of all students who take the examination. In 2023, 67.8% of grades awarded at GCSE were at grade 4 or above. 20.8% of grades in the South West of England were grade 7 or above. In London, this percentage was 28.4%.

In maths in 2023, The top 4.2% of grades awarded were grade 9. The bottom 4.7% were a grade 1. Although the percentages each year are relatively stable, what is required for each grade will be determined by the quality of the work across the students that are sitting the exam at the same time. What is required to get a certain grade is not necessarily consistent from year to year.

How will we support students who find themselves at the lower end of a Rank Order?

Students who finish towards the lower end 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 staff at the school to dissect the possible reasons for a low rank order and identify what can support the very best outcomes. Intervention may include after school sessions, support with reading or the provision of additional materials to support learning. There are also parents' evenings throughout the year to allow for discussion with each subject teacher.

What will Rank Order Information look like?

Rank order information will appear in the Assessment Summary document that will be emailed directly to parents alongside the usual learning overview. This information will also be displayed anonymously on boards in school for students to access if they wish, students will all have a unique code provided to parents, it is up to parents if they wish to share this with their child.

What will the school do with the Rank Order Information?

The information Rank Order gives allows the school to reward students who are making progress and identify students who need additional support to ensure that they make improvements. We are also able to assess if particular interventions are having an impact when we compare rank at different points during the year.

Will this lead to class changes?

In the subjects that we provide a Rank Order in, it may do. Providing ROI is about giving students the responsibility, motivation and determination to change their outcomes while they still can and so a significant increase or decrease in rank may show they are no longer in the appropriate group. We will always consider other factors when moving students into a different class.

What happens if a student is ranked at the bottom of the year group?

We have found that the students who find themselves at the bottom of the rank order are often those who miss lessons persistently or who have poor engagement in lessons and independent work. These students may already be receiving support for their attendance or behaviour and this data will enable us to accurately measure the impact of this. All interventions will be monitored through this process.

My child has special education needs – will this affect their standing in the year group?

A special educational need does not automatically mean that a child will perform less well than their peers. They may have some additional barriers to overcome but each year we see children with SEND outperform children without additional needs. The average progress of children receiving SEND support in school outcomes in 2023 at Coombe Dean was above that of children with no SEND.

How, as a parent/carer, can I support my child with Rank Order Information?

As parent/carer you can support immeasurably by encouraging a positive attitude to learning, independent work at home through homework and ensuring excellent attendance. Students who follow this are far more likely to improve their rank order within the school (and then nationally come August of Year 11) and will therefore be rewarded for their academic progress.