

What are Key Stage 3 Levels?

We are aware that students coming to Year 7 do not have equivalent National Curriculum levels, and therefore you may be unfamiliar with them. We hope that this sheet will help.

Currently Longsands are using National Curriculum Levels. National Curriculum Levels describe what a student working at that level will be achieving. Your child's teachers assess the level they are working at in their subject on a regular basis. This may be from class work, home learning, a levelled assessment or for some subjects a combination of several of these. This is because all subjects have very different attainment levels related specifically to their subject, and within a level there are a range of skills that can be assessed. This, along with teacher feedback, should help to indicate the areas they may need to work on, or have been particularly successful at.

Attainment Levels for all National Curriculum subjects range between 1 and 8, with 1 being the lowest. High performing students may be awarded a Level 8. The levels are refined by sub-levels which indicate where a student is within the level. Sub-dividing levels helps teachers to monitor how students are progressing within the level as they move up towards the next level. Sub-levels are: a - top of the level, b – mid level, and c – just reaching that level.

Different subjects will also show different rates of progress depending on the experience students have had of the subject before coming to Longsands. For example, in Modern Foreign Languages students have no levelled assessment before joining and start at the beginning of level 1, while in other subjects students may already be at level 5 on entry. Please do not be alarmed if the Modern Foreign Language or other non-core subject's levels seem low (this is to be expected given they may start Year 7 at level 1). The core subjects are English, Maths and Science. By the end of the Key Stage students will be able to access the highest levels in languages, as with all other subjects.

'Current Teacher Assessment' provides a "snapshot" indicating the standard your child is currently working at. As they are still working to complete the Key Stage, it may not be possible for your child to reach the highest levels at this point in the course, and so the level may be below that which we would expect by the end of Year 9. This is because the current teacher assessment reflects their current progress for a topic or the specific skill they have been working on at that moment, rather than indicating all the skills and knowledge tested finally at the end of the Key Stage. 'Current Teacher Assessments' are definitely NOT a prediction of your child's final level.

What level should my child be working at?

At the end of each Key Stage, children are expected to reach certain levels of knowledge, skills and understanding in each subject. The nationally expected Attainment Level for children at the end of Key Stage 3 is as follows:

Age	14 years
Key Stage	KS3
Level 8	
Level 7	
Level 6	
Level 5	
Level 4	
Level 3	
Level 2a, 2b, 2c	
Level 1	

	Beyond expectations
	At level expected
	Below expectations