



UXBRIDGE
HIGH SCHOOL

September 2026

Dear parent/carer,

We wanted to share with you some exciting developments at key stage 3 which will really support you as parents and carers to know how your child is progressing in school and how you can support them in independently applying the curriculum at home through post and prep.

1.KS3 Assessment Tracking

From September, we will be moving our KS3 assessment system from **DPR to Arbor**. We would like to reassure you that our approach to assessment is not changing, with staff continuing to make regular assessment of student progress as part of every day teaching. Following feedback however, we recognise that these judgements haven't always been communicated in a consistent and useful manner with parents and therefore we will be changing the platform we use to record and share information as a mechanism to improve this.

Assessment will remain focused on the key objectives within each subject's curriculum, allowing us to identify strengths, address gaps in learning, and provide the right support for every student.

What are the benefits?

Everything in one place

Assessment information will sit alongside attendance, behaviour and communication records within Arbor, giving parents a single platform to access important information about their child.

Clearer targets

Students will be assessed against a GCSE target range based on prior attainment data, providing a clear and nationally recognised measure of progress from Year 7 onwards. To support parents/guardians who are new to the GCSE scoring system, please find below a comparison table against the legacy grades and a short description of the comparison.

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New GCSE grades	Legacy GCSE grades
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
2	D
1	
U	U

- Grade 9 – Higher than the A* grade. Awarded to the top performers.
- Grade 8 and 7 – Roughly matches an A* and A.
- Grade 6 – Equivalent to a high B grade.
- Grade 5 – A strong pass grade. This sits between a low B grade and C grade.
- Grade 4 – A standard pass. Equivalent to a low C grade.
- Grades 3 to 1 – Covers D grade down to a G.

Simpler reporting

We are replacing the previous terms *Developing*, *Consolidating* and *Secure* with clearer language:

- Below target range
- On target range
- Above target range

This will make it much easier for parents and students to understand whether progress is on track.

Benefits for students and parents

The move to Arbor will provide clearer information, easier access to progress data, and a more complete picture of each student's journey in school. Parents will be able to see progress as it develops, while students will benefit from a clearer understanding of their strengths and next steps.

2. Post & Prep

Post & Prep is our whole-school homework approach. It rests on a simple idea: understanding something in a lesson is not the same as remembering it. Forgetting is a normal part of learning, and students need regular opportunities to revisit knowledge for it to stick.

Parents of Year 8 and 9 students may already know Post & Prep from English and geography, where we trialled it over the past year. The progress we saw in those subjects has led us to extend it across a wider range of subjects.

Every student receives a printed Post & Prep booklet containing their tasks for the half term. There are three types of task:

- Red Posts revisit older learning from previous topics, terms, or years, helping students retain important knowledge over time.
- Green Posts revisit recent learning, usually from the last 10–14 days, helping students secure new knowledge before it is forgotten.
- Prep activities introduce key knowledge, vocabulary, and concepts before they are taught in lessons, helping students feel more prepared and confident when encountering new learning.

How you can help

You do not need to be an expert in any of these subjects. Three things make the biggest difference:

Instead of *"Have you done your homework?"*, try *"Tell me one thing from your Learning Box today."* Explaining an idea aloud, in their own words, is one of the most powerful ways to strengthen it.

Use the self-quizzing pages together. You do not need to know the answers. Read out the question, listen to the response, let your child check it, and return to anything they found difficult.

Little and often. Short, regular sessions beat a long push the night before. Even five or ten minutes of revisiting a Learning Box or completing some self-quizzing makes a real difference.

The practical details

- Booklets will be issued at the start of term and should be brought to school daily. If students do not have post and prep to complete that evening, then tutors will have a storage box in form rooms to ensure students have a safe space to keep them. This will be checked each week alongside usual equipment checks.
- Students should spend around 15 minutes per subject, per week on their post and prep. It's more about quality than quantity. This should be completed independently.
- We have printed these as a school to ensure that they are high quality and built to last. What's most important is that students engage in using them however if you are able, we are requesting a donation towards the cost of the booklet which can be paid in the usual way on Arbor.

You can find more information, including answers to frequently asked questions, on our website: uhs.org.uk → Post & Prep

We are excited about these improvements and look forward to continuing to work with you to support your child's success.

Yours sincerely,