



## Year group - Rank Order Assessment – Quick Read

We constantly seek to improve our systems to provide clarity for parents and their children. Everything that we do at Ivybridge Community College endeavors to support children to realise their true potential.

A significant part of this includes our forensic use of data to improve student outcomes.

Learning from other leading schools and colleges across the country who share our philosophy, we have decided to incorporate rank order assessment in our reporting to parents.

In a recent survey, parents shared their desire to receive reports that were much more user friendly and that shared data in a way that provided clarity and context.

We know parents will have conversations at home about how their child is doing compared with their peers. This is a sensible approach as ultimately this is how all qualifications are judged. In 2024 there were over 9 million students in UK secondary schools, with 630,000 students taking GCSE (Level 2 exams) in Year 11. In GCSE exams, the scores are adjusted so that a proportion receive a grade as seen for mathematics GCSE in 2024.

Grade	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
Percentage of the student population (%)	5.1	8.2	13.7	18.6	20.7	24.8	6.5	1.5	0.6	0.3

The most valid method of reporting your child's progress to you is letting you know how well they did in relation to their peers here at Ivybridge over time. Comparative judgement of work has long been used in assessing student performance and progress. Twice a year, in line with the College assessment calendar students sit an end of term test or complete a standardised piece of work in their subjects. The outcome of each exam is given a percentage and ranked.

Parents will be informed of the percentage their child achieved in each test, their rank within each subject assessed, and their rank overall in the year group. Students' overall performance will anonymously be displayed on boards in subject areas, with details of movement between assessment points.

The overall rank within a year group is calculated using the average performance of each student across their grades. Students in Key Stage Three will have an overall rank if they have sat half or more of the assessments. At Key Stage Four, the overall rank only applies from the Summer Year 10 Exam Series onwards. There is no overall ranking at Key Stage 5 due to the nature of different courses being assessed.

## **Hard Work**

Alongside the academic reporting will be a grade of 1-4 in each subject assessing how hard the student works in class – the ‘Hard Work’ grade, along with their yearly attendance to date. We know that students who work hard, and attend more, achieve the best grades and this is reflected in the reports we provide to parents.

Initial questions are about potentially demotivating those who appear lower in the list. When the answers are understood, rank order proves to be a useful and effective piece of information to know. It transcends the constant changes in education labelling and puts understanding achievement firmly back in the hands of students and parents.

To be clear: this information already exists. What we are going to do is make it available to parents, carers and students themselves. When we visit schools that use rank order, far from being demotivating in any way, students describe how they are constantly trying to improve on their own previous position in the year.

We will always offer support to students to improve from whichever position they are in. All students have the opportunity to opt out, no questions asked from the rank order reporting.

Students and parents who wish to opt out of the rank order assessment reporting may [complete this Microsoft form](#).

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

Please find answers to our most common questions below.

## **Why are we doing Rank Order Assessment?**

We are constantly looking for ways to improve, to communicate better with you on how your child is doing, and help students achieve amazing outcomes. We know that to boost motivation and provide students with rank order information is one of the most effective ways to do this.

## **What is Year Group 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 to give all stakeholders the best information for students to reach their academic potential.

## **Can students opt out of the reporting?**

All students will take the assessment. Students can have the ranking removed from their reports – no questions asked. Please [complete this form](#) to let us know.

Predicted grades, and other forms of assessment take rank order information and assign students a grade based on it. We find this provides parents and students with a set of information that is less useful than knowing a student rank for a particular subject in a particular assessment cycle.

### What will Rank Order Assessment look like?

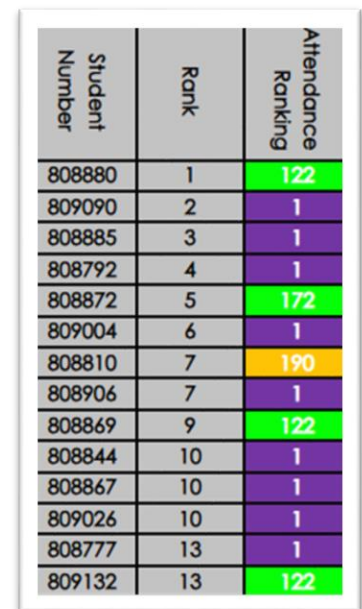
Parents will receive an academic report twice per year at Assessment Points 1 and 2. This will report the rank of their young person in each subject in their cohort, the percentage grade they achieved. This will be sent home in their report.

After each Assessment Point, anonymised rank order boards are displayed in College whereby students are ranked from top to bottom. Next to the rank will appear an **anonymised** code - each pupil will be given their own code on their report. The ranks are completely confidential with the student having a unique number.

Unless the student decides to share information with their friends, nobody else will know how they have done overall in the year group. We also show a list of students who make the biggest progress as we feel that list is just as important.

Student rank order is displayed with student Hard Work grades. This helps students see the link between working hard and achievement, supporting our ethos as an effort driven College where students who work hard do well.

Please see to the right for the most recent example of the rank order board for the Year 11 Future Pathways Exam Series, which has been displayed in the corridor outside of the Learning Resource Centre;



Student Number	Rank	Attendance Ranking
808880	1	122
809090	2	1
808885	3	1
808792	4	1
808872	5	172
809004	6	1
808810	7	190
808906	7	1
808869	9	122
808844	10	1
808867	10	1
809026	10	1
808777	13	1
809132	13	122

### What will the College do with the Rank Order information?

The information the rank order gives us will be used to support students' learning habits and address early underperformance, including any barriers to learning that students may experience. Later, rank order will allow us to stream students, top 30 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 many, but not all of their core subjects.

### How will we support students who find themselves at the bottom of a rank order or dropping places?

Students who finish towards the bottom of the rank order will receive intervention where appropriate and, in some cases, parents/carers will be invited in for a meeting with a member of the Leadership Team to discuss the possible reasons for a low rank order. Intervention may include direction to Block 0 and Block 6 sessions, support with reading and literacy, and opportunities to work with the members of our inclusion hub team where students can work on study skills, motivation and organisational habits.

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

First of all, it is a conversation that needs to take place between yourself and your child. Results are anonymised and no student will be publicly identified. Each student is given a unique identifying number which is theirs and theirs alone. If you decide that you do not wish your child to be issued a rank, please complete [the Opt Out form](#), no questions asked. This does not mean that they are exempt from the assessments – exams access arrangements will be put into place to help them access each subject assessment. This gives us valuable information as to how we can support them best in the GCSE and A Level exams to reach their full potential.

### **When will rank order happen?**

Curriculum Leads will be expected to provide the assessment team with an ordering of their students with a single teacher judgement on 'Hard Work' in Assessment Points 1 and 2.

Please see the College calendar on the Ivybridge Community College website for details.

Where appropriate, students will be put into a more appropriate set in response to the outcome of rank order assessments.

### **How, as a parent and carer, can I support my child with rank order assessment?**

As parent and carers, you can support immeasurably by encouraging a positive attitude to learning, good habits at home, working hard and independent work at home through home learning, and by supporting punctuality and attendance.

Students who follow these steps are far more likely to improve in their rank order and will therefore be rewarded for their academic progress. Whilst students were not expected to revise for baseline assessments, prior to mid-year and end of year assessments, you will receive a booklet that will tell you everything that they will be tested on.

You can keep on track by having a look in their books or speaking to your sons/daughters about their hard work in lessons.

### **Will students be rewarded for their Rank Order?**

Yes - Students who finish near the top of the Rank Order will be rewarded.

Yes - Students who make the most progress in terms of moving up the Rank Order will also be rewarded.

Students who feel they have made significant strides may also enter themselves into the proud table work – for these they can be entered into prize draws.