



Information for parents: New system for Year 3 of secondary school

Best access to the world of work and further education

Win-win situation

Investing in a forward-looking education system: Year 3 of secondary school in the county of Zurich will provide pupils with a greater focus on getting ready for the challenges of an apprenticeship or further education. The aim is to create a win-win situation for both secondary schools and those companies offering apprenticeships, or further education colleges.

The cantonal association of commerce (KGV), the umbrella organisation of the small and medium-sized enterprises (KMU) in the county of Zurich, offers its support to this secondary school-level reform.

Aims of the new system

- Closer and more timely cooperation between schools, career advisors and parents when in the process of choosing careers.
- Personalised assessments based on «Stellwerk-Tests 8» in Year 2 of secondary school, followed by an assessment and goal setting discussion.
- Personalised development plan for optional subjects in Year 3 of secondary school that enables pupils to realise their potential and extend their learning.
- Focused review of gaps, and strengths development.
- Development of personal, social and practical skills through projects and a final assignment in Year 3.
- Preparation for successful transfer to vocational training and for entrance tests for academic high school (Kurzgymnasium) and college (Berufsmittelschule).

Taking on responsibility

- In the middle of Year 2, «Stellwerk 8» - a standardised performance test - offers pupils a reliable, personalised status report that does not reflect the performance specifications of the school the pupil attends.

- «Stellwerk 8» is a computerised adaptive testing system that reviews pupils' performance in the following subjects: German, French, English, Mathematics, Nature and Technology.
- Stellwerk is a development-focused testing system, highlighting pupils' strengths and weaknesses in a personalised performance profile. This performance profile, combined with an evaluation, help to define those measures needed to extend learning.
- An assessment meeting is held together with parents and pupils to set out and commit to aims and focus areas.
- Personalised learning options are available to Year 3 pupils to help further develop strengths and close any gaps.
- Develop particularly strong pupils who are planning to transfer to academic high school (Kurzgymnasium) or college (Berufsmittelschule).
- Year 3 emphasises how important it is for pupils to accept responsibility for their own progress in the workplace and in their own lives.

We successfully tested the «New system for Year 3» in various pilot schools and from the 2009/10 academic year it was introduced in stages, starting with Year 1 of secondary school. By summer 2012, the first pupils will have completed the new system for Year 3. For more information about the new system, go to www.vsa.zh.ch