



Dear Parent / Carer

Year 8 Progress Check Assessments w/c 11th June 2018

The week commencing the 11th June is assessment week for year 8 students. Their current progress will be assessed across all of their subjects and this will form the basis for the third and final round of monitoring. As part of the process students will be completing Progress Check assessments in English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and Spanish, these will all take the form of more formal exam style tests based on the papers that students will sit in Year 11. Assessments in the core subjects have been externally set for use in all schools across the Multi Academy Trust. This will help moderate and standardise the grades awarded giving students, parents and teachers a valid and accurate picture of current progress.

Teachers for all subjects will be making students aware of how and on what content they will be assessed in the lead up to assessment week; however included below is a summary of the assessments for the core and EBACC subjects along with how students can best prepare for these.

English:

The Exam Paper / Unit the assessment is taken from	English Language Paper 2 - 1hour 45 minutes
The number and tariff of questions	5 questions – Section A READING has 4 questions that are a response to some non-fiction texts. Section B WRITING is a non-fiction writing task. (Maximum – 80 marks: Q1 = 4 / Q2 = 8 / Q3 = 12 / Q4 = 16 / Q5 = 40)
How students are encouraged to prepare for the assessment	They will be given a range of preparation tasks to be completed during lessons and at home.
What parents could do at home to help students to prepare	Parents could help students to check through their responses at home and help students to complete some of the tasks under timed conditions.

Maths:

The Exam Paper / Unit the assessment is taken from	All students will do a calc and a non-calc paper, each 1 hour in duration. There are two tiers of papers, a 'main' and an 'extension' paper; Director of Maths/KS3 Leader will decide which students do which papers based on the data we have gathered over the year (as the groups aren't set truly by ability, some students in the b-band may well sit the extension paper). KS3 Leader will identify which students do what tier of paper.
The number and tariff of questions	Approximately 18 questions per paper, each paper is worth 60 marks.
How students are encouraged to prepare for the assessment	Use their exercise books to revise/use the 'Maths Watch' app/'BBC Bitesize' website
What parents could do at home to help students to prepare	Encourage them to revise for at least 20 minutes each evening on one topic they have identified from their exercise books.

Science:

The Exam Paper / Unit the assessment is taken from	Health and Digestion, Human Organ Systems, Chemical Reactions, Circuits, Magnetism, Lab Skills, Food Webs, Graph Plotting, Reflection and Refraction, Respiration, Energy Transfer and Efficiency, Data Analysis, Pressure (Higher paper only), Electromagnets (Higher paper only)
The number and tariff of questions	Paper is split into higher (80 marks) and foundation (75 marks) tiers. The duration of both paper will be 60 minutes. Students will be told by their class teacher which paper they will be sitting. The foundation paper is laid out as several themed questions split into one, two and three mark responses. The higher paper is split into one, two and three and 4 mark responses. For all questions one point is expected to be made per mark.
How students are encouraged to prepare for the assessment	Use student exercise books, extra material provided by class teachers, use the following revision website: https://www.bbc.com/education/levels/z4kw2hv , and practice past exam questions (to be provided by teachers).
What parents could do at home to help students to prepare	Ensure students have the list of revision topics and that they are basing their revision around these; Check students use revision website for content revision; Help students to answer and assess revision questions provided by class teachers; Contact class teachers with any concerns or extra information.

History:

The Exam Paper / Unit the assessment is taken from	The assessment is 60 minutes and is based on the topics, Nazi Germany 1920-1945, and the Cold War 1945-1975 both covered this year.
The number and tariff of questions	The assessment includes GCSE style questions. It is out of 44 including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and terminology. There will be eight 1 mark knowledge recall questions, one 8 mark source question, and three 8 mark questions testing knowledge and understanding.
How students are encouraged to prepare for the assessment	Students need to be clear on the advised approach to particular question styles, and how to structure responses. Students will bring home revision guidance form the lesson and their history book to revise from.
What parents could do at home to help students to prepare	Parents could assist by ensuring students use their History books to prepare revision materials like flash cards (particularly useful to prepare for the knowledge recall questions) or mind maps (more useful for the 8 mark extended knowledge and understanding questions).

Geography:

The Exam Paper / Unit the assessment is taken from	Map skills (10 marks made up of 1 or 2 mark questions), Sustainability (4 and 6 questions), Population (4 and 6 questions), Water World (4 and 6 questions), Tectonic Hazards (4 and 6 mark questions)
The number and tariff of questions	Out of 50 For tariffs, see above.
How students are encouraged to prepare for the assessment	Make mind maps and revision resources using their books. Books will be sent home and students have had a lesson modelling how to produce a mind map. Reflect on PIN sheets to see areas for development.
What parents could do at home to help students to prepare	Help them produce mind maps and flash cards and then test their knowledge. Help them with key terms and literacy. (Geographical terminology)

Spanish:

The Exam Paper / Unit the assessment is taken from	GCSE style questions on Unit 4 – Food and eating out, Unit 5 - Clothes
The number and tariff of questions	Question 1 – Describe a photo – 8 marks Question 2 – Reading – 6 marks Question 3 – Translation – 16 marks Question 4 – Writing – 16 marks
How students are encouraged to prepare for the assessment	In lesson students will practice similar exam style questions plus given vocabulary and sentences to learn.
What parents could do at home to help students to prepare	Students should make revision notes / cards based on the assessment practice – books will be taken home to revise.

If you have any questions or queries or would like some additional information about the above please let me know.

Yours faithfully

M Dawson

Martin Dawson
Assistant Head of School - Achievement