



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with an update on the end of year assessments for year 9.

Since the reopening of schools back in March we have been focusing our year 9 students on reestablishing effective learning habits and ensuring that good progress is made through the key stage 3 National Curriculum.

I am delighted in feeding back to you the way in which the students have conducted themselves both during the last lockdown and since reopening has been fantastic. We are immensely proud of them.

Due to the pandemic, this cohort missed out on the opportunity to sit some of their on-going in class assessments. However, I am fully aware that we must formally assess their end of key stage progress. With this in mind I am writing to you to confirm the upcoming assessment arrangements. In their core subjects (English, Maths and Science) every student will sit end of year assessments. Whilst I am aware that very few students look forward to exams, missing out on assessment experiences means that this year group have not gone through the processes of assessment and feedback which are so pivotal in making progress. The core assessments will take place in timetabled lesson slots in the week beginning the 5th July. All three core subjects will use lesson time and homework tasks to focus and prepare the students for these assessments. Content and revision materials will all be posted on SMHW and Teams.

I am aware that, given everything that has happened this year, asking all students to sit assessments in all their subjects could be overwhelming and so the arrangements for non-core subjects is slightly different. You will receive a progress update for every subject your child studies this year but for the non-core subjects these will be based on a holistic summary of their work throughout the year and/or end of topic assessments. If a subject intends to run a small, class based end of topic test to add to the summary this will also be communicated via SMHW and Teams.

All of the progress indicator grades will be reported home to you before the end of term via our usual monitoring systems.

Despite their superb attitude, conduct and positivity, we are all too aware that this is an unprecedented time and the pressure that students are currently under could be triggering some negative emotions. Well-being is our top concern and we are keen to ensure that every student feels fully supported, not only with the assessment process, but also all the other aspects of school life. If you feel your child is struggling, please do not hesitate to contact their tutor or their new head of year, Mrs Horne.

I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to all the year 9 students for completing their Key Stage 3 journey in the most unprecedented of ways. I also wish all of our students the very best of luck as they start to complete the next phase of their education in Key Stage 4 in September.

If you have any questions which are subject specific, please contact your child's teacher in that subject (or the head of department). If you have any questions around the upcoming reporting of progress, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)