

April 2024

Dear families

### **Year 10 Cycle 3 Assessments**

Year 10 are approaching the end of year assessments, a key milestone to understanding the progress they are making in each of the subjects they are studying. Assessments will be based on past exam papers / exam style questions and will be their first opportunity to see what their work ethic looks like in terms of GCSE grades. The students' approach, attitude to learning along with an effective daily revision programme and attending school every day will determine their success.

Attached is a copy of the cycle 3 assessment timetable. This is an opportunity for students to rehearse, to see how effective their planning, revision and exam techniques are. It is also an opportunity for them to find out where their areas for improvement are so they can really focus their preparation for Year 11 and being successful in the final exams in summer 2025. In maths, science and Spanish, students will also try out the tier of paper they might be entered for - higher or foundation. Being entered for the foundation tier will limit students to a maximum grade of a 5 in the final exams. It is therefore important students do not see these exams as 'just mocks'. Preparation for these exams is a key part of the preparation to be successful at the end of Year 11. Furthermore, the grades achieved from these exams will be used in the process of applying for post 16 places at the start of Year 11.

Students need to sit the exams as scheduled on the timetable as they would in the real exams as they cannot be rearranged. They need to be fully equipped with the correct exam equipment. They need a clear plastic pencil case or clear plastic wallet; two black pens, two pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, ruler, calculator with fresh batteries for the maths, science, geography and DT exams along with any other specialist equipment.

#### **Access arrangements**

All students were assessed last month for any access arrangements needed to support them with exams such as extra time, coloured paper etc. It is important that if they have an access arrangement, they show evidence of needing it. If it is not used, then it will be deemed as not needed and will therefore be taken away. The following are some of the other aspects of the academy day where we are supporting students to be successful.

#### **Cycle 1 Reflection**

Over the last couple of weeks students have been reflecting on their Cycle 1 assessments and looking at what they have achieved but also what they need to improve and setting targets. The form tutors are reviewing this with them and discussing targets and strategies to support the improvement for Cycle 3. The form tutor is also supporting them with a revision plan and successful methods of revision.

#### **Morning meetings**

Each morning at 8:18am students have morning meetings. These are used to support the students with daily revision in school and recall using a quiz of what they have learnt the previous day. Students mark the quiz in green pen which helps them to identify anything that they need to revise and recap. All subjects are covered over a two-week period. Punctuality to the academy, arriving by 8:15am and being in the hall by 8:18am ensures that students are not missing important messages and time to support their revision program. When the students move into Year 11 these sessions will be expert lecture style sessions led by the heads of department with a focus on key areas to support students to be successful when they take their exams in summer 2025.

#### **Personal Development Studies (PDS)**

During PDS form tutors will support the students with their study skills and revision techniques.

#### **Private Tutors**

We are sometimes asked about private tutors or parents organising 1 to 1 tuition during year 10 and 11. In some cases, the experience is that a tutor is not needed and may not have the impact required. Attending school every day and working hard with a can-do attitude, showing determination and having a regular programme of independent



revision along with attending any sessions in school is what works in most instances. Tutors are useful where 1 to 1 support is provided to work on specific subject gaps, alongside an independent revision programme.

If you have any queries about any of the above or would like to discuss your child's progress and strategies for this year then please contact your child's form tutor or Mr Lafferty, Head of Year 10.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Orton', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Orton  
Senior Vice Principal  
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# Year 10 Cycle 3 Assessment Timetable June 2024

All exams will take place in the Sports Hall, unless specified.

Lesson	Mon 3 June	Tues 4 June	Weds 5 June	Thurs 6 June	Fri 7 June
1/2			<b>English Language</b> 8:30am 1 hour 45 min (In Lesson)		<b>Biology Paper 1</b> 8:30am Combined - 1 hr 15 Triple - 1 hr 45
3/4					
5/6	<b>English Literature</b> 1 hour 45 min 1:30pm		<b>History</b> 1 Hour 30 min 1:30pm	<b>Computer Science Paper 1</b> 1:30pm 1 hour 30 min	

Lesson	Mon 10 June	Tues 11 June	Weds 12 June	Thurs 13 June	Fri 14 June
1/2				<b>Chemistry Paper 1</b> 8:30am Combined - 1 hr 15 Triple - 1 hr 45	
3/4		<b>Spanish Reading</b> 11:00am 1 hour	<b>Maths Paper 1 Non-Calc</b> 11:00am 1 hour 30 min		<b>Spanish Listening</b> 11:00am 45 min (In Lesson)
5/6			<b>RE</b> 1:30pm 1 hour 45 mins	<b>Spanish Writing</b> 1:30pm 1 Hour 15 min	

Lesson	Mon 17 June	Tues 18 June	Weds 19 June	Thurs 20 June	Fri 21 June
1/2			<b>Physics Paper 1</b> 8:30am Combined - 1 hr 15 Triple - 1 hr 45	<b>DT</b> 8:30am 2 hours	<b>Maths Paper 2 Calculator</b> 8:30am 1 hour 30 min
3/4					<b>Computer Science Paper 2</b> 11:00am 1 hour 30 min
5/6				<b>Geography</b> 1:30pm 1 Hour 30 min	

### Exam Equipment (in clear pencil case/plastic wallet)

- 2 Black Pens.
- 2 Pencils Sharpened.
- Ruler and eraser.
- Protractor and compass.
- Calculator (Maths, DT and Science).
- You can take a drink of water in a clear bottle.
- Any other subject specific equipment.

