

April 2025

Dear families

Year 9 Cycle 3 Assessments

Year 9 are approaching the end of year assessments, a key milestone to understanding the progress they are making in each of the GCSE subjects they are studying. Assessments will be based on past exam papers / exam style questions and will be their first opportunity to see the start they have made to GCSE courses. The students' approach, attitude to learning along with an effective daily revision programme and attending school every day will determine their success. Please support your child with their revision by providing a quiet place to study free from distractions. Asking them to tell you what they have learnt is a useful part of the revision process.

Attached is a copy of the Cycle 3 assessment timetable. Students will receive a personal exam timetable, and this will also be available on MCAS. This is an opportunity for students to see how effective their planning, revision and exam techniques are and for them to identify their areas for improvement and prepare for success in year 10. Preparation for these exams is a key part of the preparation to be successful at the end of Year 11 in the final exams in the Summer 2027.

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. We run the exams as we would the final GCSEs to support the students with what to expect when sitting the real exams.

Access arrangements

Some students have an access arrangement for exams, 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. As year 9 move into year 10 all students will be assessed for potential access arrangements.

The following are some of the other aspects of the academy day where we are supporting students to be successful.

Morning meetings

Each morning at 8:18am students have morning meetings. These are used to support the students will 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 canteen by 8:18am ensures that students are not missing important messages and time to support their revision program.

Personal Development Studies (PDS)

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

Dream Team

In the next couple of weeks students will start to reflect on all aspects of academy life, what they have achieved so far but also what they need to improve and setting targets. They will present their report to you and a member of staff on Friday 18 July during the Dream Team event when you will receive the Cycle 3 report and the results of the assessments.

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 Miss Panayioti, Head of Year 9.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Orton
Senior Vice Principal
jorton@dixonsca.com



Year 9 Cycle 3 Assessment Timetable

Time	Mon 2 June	Tues 3 June	Weds 4 June	Thurs 5 June	Fri 6 June
Morning					
11am		Spanish Writing paper 45 mins	DT 2 hours		
Afternoon				RE 50 mins	

Time	Mon 9 June	Tues 10 June	Weds 11 June	Thurs 12 June	Fri 13 June
Morning		English 1 hour 45 mins			
11am					
Afternoon	Computer Science 1 hour 30 mins				Science Paper 1 hour

Time	Mon 16 June	Tues 17 June	Weds 18 June	Thurs 19 June	Fri 20 June
Morning					Spanish Reading 40 mins Listening 30 mins
11am		Geography 55 mins History 1 hour	Science Paper 2 1 hour	Maths Paper 2 Calculator 1 hour 30 mins	
Afternoon		Maths P1 Non-Calculator 1 hour 30 mins			

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.

Music exam will take place in lessons.

Sport studies, Health & Social Care and IT students have been working on coursework in year 9 which will be submitted in May.

All other subject assessments will take place in lessons.