



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Assessment in Year 10

We were delighted to have received such positive and constructive feedback regarding our assessment structure from the last academic year. As a result, we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to this year's assessment expectations and to map out key assessment dates to help with your ongoing support at home.

There are different types of assessment that students will experience each year at Magna Academy. All of them are designed to enable us to support students with their learning and ensure consistent progress is made from Year 7 to 13.

Depending on the number of lessons in a two week lesson cycle, each subject will set a minimum of one 'Knowledge Retrieval Test', every two weeks. This is a low stakes test, helping to identify gaps in a students knowledge and to embed the knowledge learnt through teachers targeting areas for immediate improvement. These will always be peer/self-marked and questions that are frequently incorrectly answered will prompt a review of the teaching of that content. They should also form areas of focus for the next lessons to develop the students capacity to store and retrieve accurate information. This knowledge will inevitably be based upon the students' knowledge organiser within that subject, for that unit. Outcomes will be recorded internally to help direct student interventions.

Each subject will assess students at regular intervals, throughout the academic year. The timings of these assessments will be appropriate for that subject curriculum and taken at the end of each unit or topic, in line with a subjects assessment journey. Subject assessment journeys will be published on our academy website, in preparation for assessment point one. Subjects will assess what has been taught within the topic and are pre-planned within the subjects' curriculum. These assessments will support the development of students examination skills over time and subjects will pause their curriculum delivery in preparation to focus on personalised learning checklists (PLCs) and effective revision techniques beforehand. Outcomes will be recorded internally to help direct student interventions.

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Year 10 students will participate in two mock examination sittings each year and will be reported as Assessment Point 1 and 2. These, where appropriate, will use Vocational or GCSE examination material. Subjects will pause their curriculum delivery for a week in preparation to focus on personalised learning checklists (PLCs) and effective revision techniques beforehand. Examination dates/times will be published in advance to help with effective revision at home. The outcomes will enable us to see how much our students have developed over the full range of skills in each subject and how much they have developed their overall subject knowledge. The outcomes will inform us of what students may benefit from targeted intervention and set changes.

To support our Year 10 students in preparing effectively for their assessments, at key times of the academic year we will publish our Raising Attainment (RA) Programme. This is an important opportunity for students to attend these extra-curricular sessions to gain extra intervention from specialist teachers in key subjects where an academic boost may be beneficial. Sessions, which will run from 3:10pm to 4:10pm each day and a timetable of sessions will be published nearer the time.

Academic reports will be generated twice a year, following each Assessment Point (AP1 & AP2). Students will receive a printed copy of their report and parents/carers will be able to access an electronic copy using their Progresso accounts. The reports will include the following information:

- GCSE Subjects: The level of attainment that the student achieved in their most recent mock examination. This is represented in a fine grade.
- Vocational subjects (BTEC/RSL): Attainment grades need to be holistic grade based upon what they have completed and what is still to come. Giving an overall final anticipated grade at this moment in time. This is represented in a fine grade.

Example of a fine grade reported after a mock examination:

Fine Grade GCSE	Fine Grade Vocational	Descriptor
7+	Distinction+	Almost working at the grade above
7	Distinction	Secure at this grade
7-	Distinction-	Insecure at this grade

Explanation of GCSE and Vocational (e.g. BTEC/RSL) Level 2 grading:

Old GCSE Equivalent	New GCSE	New Vocational (e.g. BTEC/RSL)
-	Grade 9	-
A*	Grade 8	Level 2 Distinction* (L2D*)
A	Grade 7	Level 2 Distinction (L2D)
B	Grade 6	Level 2 Merit (L2M)
B/C	Grade 5	-
C	Grade 4	Level 2 Pass (L2P)
D/E	Grade 3	Level 1 Distinction (L1D)
F	Grade 2	Level 1 Merit (L1M)
G	Grade 1	Level 1 Pass (L1P)
Unclassified	U	U

In addition to a student's academic attainment, we will report on a students:

- Attitude to Learning: This looks at a student's work ethic, how well a student is conducting themselves and their approach and engagement in their learning.
- Homework completion and quality: This considers all of the work that has been submitted, the standard that is being produced and wider reading.
- Personal Organisation: This is a judgement on how well prepared a student is for learning, the smartness of their uniform/appearance, having the correct equipment and their punctuality to lessons.
- Attendance: Percentage of student's authorised attendance.
- Positive Behaviour Points: The number of positive points awarded by staff and where they are against the year group average.
- Negative Behaviour Points: The number of negative points awarded by staff and where they are against the year group average.

There will be a subject parents' evening strategically placed after AP1, for Year 10, where students and parents/carers can meet with their child's subject teachers to discuss their attainment and agree on targets for improvement. The Year 10 Parents evening will be held in a virtual format and parents/carers will receive booking information and instructions nearer to the date.

Weeks 5-6 Per Unit - Effective Revision Homework: To support students with their retention of knowledge and making it stick for assessments, we are setting students effective revision tasks for their homework during weeks 5 and 6. In support we have created an 'Effective Revision' Google Classroom page. Please encourage your child to accept the invite on their Google Classroom dashboard. The page contains a number of resources that will model learning strategies and revision techniques for study at home to help prepare for end of unit/topic tests and end of year examinations. Effective revision homework is key in raising student achievement and will unlock additional learning opportunities. The Google Classroom resources include:

1. The Importance of Revision and Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs)
2. Revision Timetables
3. Learning Strategies
4. Revision Techniques
5. Exam Techniques
6. Mindset and Managing Exam Stress
7. Diet and Nutrition
8. Physical Activity
9. Sleep, Rest and Recovery
10. Advice for Parents/Carers

Thorough revision is essential if students are to be successful in any assessment. We recommend that revision is completed over an extended period of time to give the best possible experience and outcome. In support, subjects will upload revision material directly onto their subject Google Classroom pages will begin to model revision strategies and techniques in their day to day lessons.

Please find below the key assessment dates for Year 10:

Date	Description
13th-17th December	Effective Revision Week in Lessons & Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs)
10th-14th December	Year 10 Mock 1 Week (Main Hall)
17th February	AP1 Reports distributed and Virtual Parents Evening (4-7pm)
28th February	Year 10 Set Changes
28th-31st March	Effective Revision Week in Lessons & Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs)
26th April - 1st May	Year 10 Mock 2 Week (In Lessons)
19th May	AP2 Reports
23rd May	Year 10 Set Changes for start of Year 11

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support. Collectively, we can continue to work together to ensure that students are fully prepared and motivated to do well in every style of assessment we have mapped out for them. Every assessment counts.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Buller
Assistant Principal



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