



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

 Ashdown Close, Canford Heath, Poole, BH17 8RE

 01202 604222

 office@magna-aspirations.org

 www.magna-aspirations.org

 @MagnaAcademy

17th September 2021

RE: Assessment in Year 8

Dear Parent/Carer

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 may 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.

Students will complete a GL CAT4 Cognitive Abilities Test and New Group Reading/Spelling Tests (NGR/ST) on three separate occasions throughout the year. On each occasion students will complete a series of tests during one day allocated off timetable. This information will assist us in informing our planning for all students. We wish to reassure you that students should not worry about taking these assessments. There is no need to revise and no need to seek any additional tuition. Students are encouraged to take these assessments seriously as the outcomes will assist in the identification of those students who require intervention, SEND.

provision, subject setting, GCSE options and establishing targets for the end of Key Stage 4. This is a process that will help us best support each student and ensure their needs are fully met.

Year 8 students will sit an end of year holistic assessment 'End of Year Examination'. The aim is to assess the content from that year's academic subject curriculum and will be reported as assessment point 2. This is in addition to their regular end of topic tests, and will last 50 minutes. These will take place during normal timetabled subject lessons, and will be timetabled during a specific week. Examination dates/times will be published in advance to help with effective revision at home. Examinations will be marked by the class teacher, moderated within the department, and an attainment level will be assigned to the level the student achieved against the subject's Age Related Expectations (ARE). ARE's will be published on our academy website in preparation for assessment point one. Subjects will pause their curriculum delivery for a week in preparation to focus on personalised learning checklists (PLCs) and effective revision techniques beforehand. Outcomes will be recorded internally to help direct student interventions and set changes.

Academic reports will be generated twice a year after 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 login accounts. Below is a table summarising how ARE relates to the students chronological age when converted into their printed reports after the Progresso data drop:

Attainment Grade	Descriptor
Exceptional	On track to achieve grades 8 or 9 in GCSE at the end of Year 11
Advanced	On track to achieve grades 6 or 7 in GCSE at the end of Year 11
Secure	On track to achieve grades 5 or 4 in GCSE at the end of Year 11
Developing	On track to achieve grades 1 to 3 in GCSE at the end of Year 11

In addition to a student's ARE 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.
- New Group Reading/Spelling Tests (NGR/ST) Outcomes.



ASPIRATIONS



National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



There will be a subject parents' evening strategically placed after AP1 for Year 8, 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 7 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 8:

Date	Description
20th-24th Sep	GL CAT 4 and NGR/ST Assessments
19th Jan	AP1 Reports Distribution and Set Changes
20th Jan	Virtual Parents Evening (4-7pm)
14th-18th Feb	GL CAT 4 and NGR/ST Assessments
9th-13th May	Effective Revision Week in Lessons & Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs)
9th-13th May	GL CAT 4 and NGR/ST Assessments
23rd-27th May	End of Year Assessments
20th June	AP2 Reports distributed and set changes ready for Year 9



ASPIRATIONS



National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership



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



ASPIRATIONS



National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

National Support School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

