



Magna Academy
Poole
an Aspirations Academy
Principal: Ms N Ullah

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18th September 2023

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.

Types of Assessments

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.

Knowledge Retrieval Test: Depending on the number of lessons in a two week 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 student's knowledge and to embed the knowledge learnt through teachers targeting areas for immediate improvement.

End of Unit/Topic Assessments: 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 subject's assessment journey. Subject assessment journeys are published on the subject pages of our academy website.

Mock Assessments: 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 material as directed by the trust from the curriculum covered until the point of mock assessment. Subjects will pause their curriculum delivery in preparation to focus on personalised learning checklists (PLCs) and effective revision techniques beforehand.

Reporting

Academic reports will be generated twice a year after each Assessment Point (AP1 & AP2). Parents/Carers will be notified in writing in advance of every assessment point period to help with preparations at home, access effective revision resources in support and receive key dates. Students will receive a printed copy of their report and parents/carers will be able to access an electronic copy using their Arbor login accounts. The reports will include the following information:

- Mock Exam Grade: The level of attainment that the student achieved in their most recent mock examination.
- Current Grade: The current level of attainment that a student is working at using all tangible assessed evidence of work completed up to the date of data input.
- Projected Grade: This is the grade that a student is currently expected to achieve at the end of the course.
- All reported grades will be fine graded.

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 their:

- Attitude to Learning
- Homework completion and quality
- Personal Organisation
- Attendance and punctuality
- Positive Behaviour Points
- Negative Behaviour Points

Parents' Evening

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 parents' evening will be held in a virtual format and parents/carers will receive booking information and instructions nearer to the date.

Effective Revision

To support students with their retention of knowledge and making it stick for assessments, at various points of the year we will collapse the curriculum delivery and style of homework so students can focus on effective revision. In support we have created an 'Effective Revision' Google Classroom page. Please encourage your child to accept the invite on their Google Classroom dashboard. Effective revision homework is key in raising student achievement and will unlock additional learning opportunities. The Google Classroom resources include:

- The Importance of Revision and Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs)
- Revision Timetables
- Learning Strategies
- Revision Techniques
- Exam Techniques
- Mindset and Managing Exam Pressure
- Diet and Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Sleep, Rest and Recovery
- Advice for Parents/Carers

Parental Engagement

We have created a number of, 'need to know' presentations that you can view to help you further support your child at home:

- [Homework and Self-Quizzing](#)
- [Assessment and Effective Revision](#)
- [Teaching, Learning and DEAR \(Drop Everything and Read\)](#)

Key Assessment Dates

Date	Description
16-23 Nov	Vocational Subject Assessment Window
11 Dec	Effective Revision Week in Lessons & Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs)
8-26 Jan	Mock Exam Period 1
31 Jan	UK Intermediate Maths Challenge
1 Feb	AP1 Reports distributed and Virtual Parents Evening (4-7pm)
2 Feb	Set Changes based on mock results
21-28 Mar	Vocational Subject Assessment Window
1-10 May	Effective Revision Week in Lessons & Personalised Learning Checklists (PLCs)
13-24 May	Mock Exam Period 2
13 June	AP2 Reports
14 June	Set Changes for start of Year 11
24-28 June	Work Experience

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
Vice Principal