

2nd October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

The week commencing 12 October, we have the first Year 8 assessment week, during which all Year 8 students will have the opportunity to show what they have been learning as well as receiving feedback on areas they need to improve.

Following these assessments, you will receive the first report to show you what progress your child is making and how good their attitude towards learning is this year.

It would be really helpful if you could encourage your child to revise for these assessments and also to arrive at school fully equipped. Revision resources, including revision lists and further details are available on Google Classroom or ClassCharts.

To help you understand what the assessments are about, here are some further details:

English: You will sit an assessment testing your knowledge on the opening of Sherlock Holmes so far- specifically on the character of Sherlock. You will need to read a small extract, and then write an analytical paragraph with a set focus.

Maths: Year 8 will be assessed on some simple calculations but also some more in-depth thinking and the use of problem solving skills.

Science: The assessment is based on the final topics covered in Year 7 which were Ecosystems and genes, Reactions and Matter. The pupils could be asked questions such as to recall the particle model of solids, liquids and gases, define a producer in a food chain or identify a structure within the human reproductive system.

Geography: Year 8 Geographers will complete a test on Natural hazards, with the 'big question' focussing on why the effects of the earthquake in Haiti were so deadly.

History: How did life change for American people during the 'Roaring Twenties'?

French/German: Do you remember learning how to tell the time...before the age of smartphone watches? Your child will need to be able to do this in the foreign language- good luck!

REP: Students will be tested on Sikhism: the 10 Gurus, the role of the Granthi in the Gurdwara (the person responsible for the sacred texts in the place of worship), and the formation of the Khalsa (a community of Sikhs).

Computing: For Computing our main topic has been Python programming - students need to be able to read a basic program to follow the thread of program execution and find and fix basic syntax errors.

Music: We have been learning to recognise key features of blues music, including improvisation, syncopation and call and response. Can you remember the pattern of the 12-bar blues, the features of a walking bassline, and the notes of the blues scale?

Drama: Our Y8 students have been preparing for undercover missions as spies by looking at Stanislavski's methods for creating naturalistic characters. They are assessed on their devising and performing skills, as well as their knowledge of key subject specific terminology.

Art: Developing a response to Wayne Thiebaud's cake artwork. Looking at drawing 3D shapes such as spheres, cylinders, ellipses and colour to show light and shade.

PE: Handball, OAA, Rugby, Basketball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Gymnastics & Healthy Active Lifestyle in the Fitness Suite.

We wish the best of luck to all the Year 8s. If there are any questions about these assessments, students should talk to their class teacher for further information.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Goodship
Assistant Headteacher

