



22 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

During the upcoming half-term, students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will sit their end-of-year assessments. These assessments are an important part of your child's academic studies, and so to help them prepare, here's some useful information.

Assessment Dates

- Year 10: assessments for all subjects begin on 10 June for approximately three weeks
- Year 8 and 9: assessments for all subjects begin on 10 June for approximately two weeks
- Year 7: assessments for all subjects begin on 3 June for approximately two weeks

Detailed dates are available on our website here

<https://www.mrc-academy.org/curriculum/assessment-dates>, along with revision techniques and subject-specific guidance.

Assessment Locations

- Year 10 will sit their assessments in the sports hall, providing a formal examination experience similar to GCSEs.
- Years 7, 8, and 9 assessments will mostly take place in their usual classrooms.

Revision topics

Class teachers have shared details of forthcoming assessments with your child, including the length of assessment, type of questions, topics that will be in the assessment and some revision activities that will be useful to help your child prepare. This is now available on Arbor as an assignment. If you and your child cannot find this information, please contact your child's class teacher directly.

How should my child revise?

In tutor time this half-term, students have learnt how to revise, using the FLAT method:

- **Focused:** Find a quiet space free from distractions.
- **Long-term:** Create a revision timetable over several weeks.
- **Active:** Use flashcards, past papers, and quizzes for active learning.
- **Transformed:** Turn knowledge into mind maps or posters for better retention.

Importance of assessments

- Regular retrieval of information aids long-term memory. Annual and termly revision as well as regular homework support this.
- Assessments measure progress and identify areas for improvement.
- Preparing now supports future attainment in GCSEs and A levels.

Perspective

- These assessments are not final GCSEs; they're stepping stones.
- Encourage revision during the half-term break, but avoid excessive study.

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Need additional help

- Teachers: Encourage your child to seek clarification or extra help from their teachers.
- Head of Year and tutors: if students are feeling anxious or stressed about these assessments, please speak to your child's Head of Year or tutor.
- Online Resources: Explore websites like BBC Bitesize or Oak National Academy for additional study materials.
- Supportive Friends and Family: Lean on them for encouragement and emotional support.

Lastly, we continually review our systems and procedures to ensure they are effective. This year, we've worked to improve communication around assessment preparation and provide more useful information. Your feedback via this survey here; <https://forms.office.com/e/NTRQ&LK056> will help inform next year's improvement priorities for assessment and reporting. We would be grateful for you taking a few minutes to feedback which will help inform next year's improvement priorities for assessment and reporting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. van Hoek', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr van Hoek
Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning