KS3 Year 8 Assessment Parent Handbook 2026-27

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Dear Parent,

An Introduction to the Year 8 Key Stage 3 (KS3) Assessment Process

Our Year 8 curriculum helps students build on what they learned in Year 7 so they have a solid foundation in every subject. By revisiting earlier topics and introducing new ones, we aim to ensure that students continue to develop a broad understanding of a range of subjects.

To see how students are progressing, we have two assessment periods during Year 8. These give teachers a clear view of their progress and give students experience of the types of tests they will see in Key Stage 4.

All assessments take place in normal lessons with their teachers. Marks are recorded centrally, and we send grade cards home in January and June showing for each subject:

- Your child's score.
- The average mark for the year group.
- The matching KS3 grade description based on test performance.

January test results help guide Year 8 report writing and show where extra support might be needed. June test results provide useful information about end of year performance and help us place students in the right classes for Year 9.

We hope this handbook explains how assessments work and what to expect. Please feel free to contact me with general questions, or reach out to the relevant Raising Achievement Leader for subject-specific questions.

Yours faithfully



Mark Warland
Deputy Headteacher

Structure of the tests

Each subject assessment will comprise of the following 3 sections:

Section 1- Multiple Choice Questions
Section 2: Short written responses
Section 3: Application of skill (Extended written answers or demonstration of the skill)

The test will be 40 marks in total with students being given 45 minutes to complete it. Tests will be conducted in silence under teacher supervision. Students will not be allowed to use any resources other than those provided by the teacher.

Reporting of Results

Parents will receive the results from the tests taken during November (Assessment Window 1) in January. For the tests taken in May (Assessment Window 2) parents will receive the results at the start of June. The mark achieved on each test along with the average mark for all students who took the test will be shown.

KS3 Grade Descriptors

In addition to the raw score and cohort average mark a KS3 Grade Descriptor will also be shown for each subject. We will use the same language that students are familiar with from Year 7.

If a student has not yet met the expected standard for their age on the test we would award a grade of "**Working towards the expected standard**". This will typically be around 10% of the cohort.

If a student is working at the expected standard we would report a grade of **"Working at the expected standard**". This will typically be around 50% of the cohort.

For those students who achieve a mark on their test which demonstrates they are working above what is expected for their age we would award a grade of **"Working at Greater Depth"**. This will typically be around 40% of the cohort.

Additional Time

If your child is on the SEND register and is entitled to extra time, rest breaks and/or the use of a laptop for tests in lessons then these access arrangements will also be provided for each assessment.

Year 8 KS3 Assessments - Summary of topics covered in Autumn Term assessments

Subject	Students will be asked questions to assess their knowledge and understanding and skills in the following areas:
Art	• Art vocabulary and connections to artists' work • Accuracy in drawing • use of pencil techniques to show tonal shading
Computing	• Principles of computing • Algorithms • Sequence • Variables • Selection, Conditions and Operators • Iteration
Design Technology	• Lettering design in isometric • Communicating material likeness using rendering • Measuring and marking out • Tools and equipment
English	• Key vocabulary and their meanings. • Terminology including persuasive devices • Ability to write a persuasive speech for an audience Students will be provided with a revision guide with content that will be on the test.
French	• What is in your bag • Opinions of school subjects • Opinions of teachers • Activities at school (key -ER verbs)
Textiles	• Sock monkey final design • Annotation of final design • Key words from Textiles Autumn term 1 • Health & safety

Geography	• Ecosystems unit • Africa unit Students will be provided with a revision guide prior to the test week
German	• Greetings and introductions (name, age) • Adjectives to describe how you are (mood/feelings) • School equipment • Key verbs for saying what you have/don't have/would like/have forgotten/have lost
History	• English Civil War • Oliver Cromwell
Mathematics	• Adding & subtracting fractions • Angles & polygons • Ratio • Proportion & scale • Algebraic manipulation
Music	• Theme and variation • Programme music
Physical Education	• Five components of a warm up and two components of a cool down • Components of fitness including Cardiovascular Endurance, Muscular Endurance, Speed, Strength & Agility • Lead a warm up and small coaching practice to a small group of students • Performance of skills, tactical understanding, contribution to game play and ability to adhere to rules

Science	• 8E combustion • 8F Periodic Table • 8I Fluids • 8J Light • Small amount of retrieval of: 7F Acids & alkalis, 7L Sound.
Spanish	• Greetings and introductions (name, age) • Adjectives to describe how you are (mood/feelings) • School equipment • Key verbs for saying what you have/don't have/would like/have forgotten/have lost
Religious Education	The following questions will be assessed: • What are some of the key messages behind each of the Abrahamic Faiths? • What are some of the key messages behind each of the Dharmic Faiths? • What do the world religions believe about life after death? • What is the current and historic relationship with persecution and religion?