

Year 8 Newsletter



April 2021

Welcome to the Year 8 April 2021 Newsletter. It has been great having the students back in the building and learning in lessons.

The next couple of weeks will be busy for Year 8 as the students work towards their assessments. These allow the students to really demonstrate what they have learnt this year. It will also help us to review the set that each student is in to make sure they are correctly placed. Please note that the assessments have been modified to reflect any changes that have had to be put in place due to lockdown and Covid restrictions.

Assessment week begins on **Monday 10th May 2021**. Next week, teachers will be asking students to write the specific day and period of their assessment into their planners so that everyone can be fully prepared. It is important that the students spend some time at home over the next few weeks revising from their knowledge organisers. All students have been given a copy of these and they can also be found on the school website.

As our students move through the school, they will be given lots of opportunities to learn which revision strategies work best for them – simply reading the information will not help them to remember the key knowledge! Please find on the next page the suggested strategies that students can use at home to support them in their revision. Your support in encouraging your child to use these would be greatly appreciated as they prepare for these assessments.

Topics to be covered in the assessments:

Subject	Topics
Art	Developing final pieces for the superhero's project
Computing	E Safety Computational thinking
English	Greek Myths and Biblical Allusions The Hunger Games
Geography	Natural Hazards Population Cartographical skills
History	Civil War, Slavery, Industrial Revolution, Stories in stone, Suffragettes, Origins of WW1
Maths	See knowledge organiser for the different stages
MFL German	Holidays Health & Unhealthy living Friends and Families School & Education
Music	Classic rock Superhero themes Game music The Beatles
PE	Practical assessment
REW	Judaism Christianity Islam
Science	Organisms, Digestion, Elements, Periodic Table, Electromagnets, Chemical reactions, Ecosystems, Electricity
Food Studies	Cake making methods and dietary needs
Design Technology	Timbers, 3D sketching, ACCESSFM



Top Tips

- ✓ Check that your child is regularly completing homework and revision.
- ✓ Ensure they have a space to revise.
- ✓ Allow them to use the internet to access educational revision sites.
- ✓ Talk to your child about their weekly revision plan.
- ✓ Even if your child says they have no homework, insist they spend this time effectively revising.
- ✓ Ask to see evidence of the work that they have been doing.
- ✓ Test them on what they have learned.

Lateral flow tests – please remember to log these on the school website and the government website twice a week – Sunday night and Wednesday night. Your support is much appreciated!

Key Dates for Year 8 Students

Week commencing 10th May – Y8 Assessment Week

Week commencing 31st May – Half Term Holiday

Week commencing 21st June – Standardised tests for Y8(English & Maths)

Friday 25th June and Monday 28th June – Staff Training Days



enjoy learn succeed



Become a knowledgeable and expert learner!

Practise these tasks independently with your knowledge organisers.

Transform It

Turn **facts into images**. Then use the images to rewrite the facts.



Recreate It

Recreate **diagrams, maps or images** – first by copying from the sheet, eventually moving on to recalling entirely from memory.



Prioritise It

Identify the **top three** most important pieces of content on the sheet – **justify** your reasons (explain why).



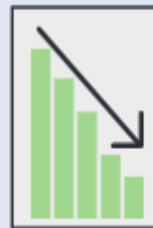
Be a Photocopier

On a blank piece of paper, **recreate** as much of the organiser as you can. When you have done all you can, **green pen** it by using the original to add what you couldn't recall.



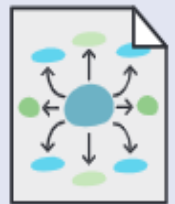
Reduce It

Summarise content into single words. Then use these words to rewrite the content.



Mind-map It

Choose a section of the knowledge organiser to **mindmap** from memory. Add categories, colour, questions and layers of thinking about the information.



Look, Cover, Write, Check

Choose a section and **look**, trying to remember it. **Cover** it up. **Write** it out. **Check** what you missed and add it in **green pen**.



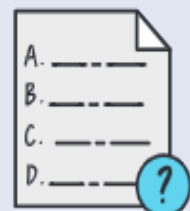
Connect It

Find **connections** between ideas, vocabulary or facts on the knowledge organiser. How many connections can you find between them?



Quiz It

Write yourself a **quiz** based on the KO. Come back to it another day and see if you can answer it from memory. **Red pen** your answers.



If your child's phone is constantly pinging when they are revising or doing homework, you will need to intervene.

The apps below allow students to block websites for a set block of time. Once the block is in place, it can't be bypassed until the specified time period is up.

- Apple – 'Self control' App
- Android – 'Self control for study' app
- Windows – 'Cold turkey' app