



29th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 8 End of Year Assessments

In the week commencing 20th May, Year 8 students will complete end of year assessments for each of the subjects they study. Staff will prepare students in lessons prior to the assessments and will set homework that supports your child in preparing for these assessments.

In preparation for these assessments, a support booklet has been created for parents, carers and students. The booklet has been attached with this document. The support booklet provides information to parents, carers and students regarding the content and length of the assessment, as well as links to revision and support, to enable each student to prepare. Students will be assessed on what they have learnt in their lessons at the Academy and the knowledge organisers will be a useful revision tool to support them.

Due to the hall being in use for GCSE and A level examinations, all subject assessments will take place in the classroom. As always, attendance will be important across the assessment week to ensure students are not under additional pressure to catch up missed assessments alongside their learning.

The results of the end of year assessments will be used to re-set students for core subjects, as well as inform teaching and intervention. Set changes will take place for September of Year 9. The results of the assessments will be shared with parents via reports. The report will outline the % score your child achieved in their end of year assessment for each subject, along with the average % score of the year group. This will allow you and your child to understand how they are performing in comparison to their peers.

Participation in The Bourne Scholar's programme will be based on student's academic attainment in the end of year exams. Students already accessing The Bourne Scholar's programme will be expected to perform in the top 30 of students in the cohort across their core subjects. Any student not currently enrolled on The Bourne Scholar's programme will have the opportunity to gain access to the programme if their attainment across the core subjects demonstrates they are in the top 30 of the year group cohort.

Please be aware that students in lower school (Years 7, 8 and 9) do not receive formal Exam Access Arrangements (EAA) during assessments. In the latter stages of Year 9, those officially identified by teaching staff will be formally assessed, in school, and the outcomes will be subject to the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) regulations. Students are not assessed prior to Year 9 because exam access arrangements only last for a limited amount of time. Students' formal assessments, along with their in class work will be used to build evidence and support a student's case, where teaching staff believe a student *may* require additional support in their GCSE / BTEC examinations. Those students with an EHCP and/or those with a significant medical diagnosis, confirmed by a health professional, may qualify for alternative assessment provision to be made, however, this will be at the discretion of Mrs McHugh (SENDCo) or an Exams access assessor.

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

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Please be reassured that staff will remind students, that while they should prepare for their assessments so they feel confident, they should not put any undue pressure on themselves. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure students are in the most appropriate teaching group, that will support them to maximise their progress.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on tracie.deane@thebourneacademy.com

Yours sincerely,

Mrs T Deane

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

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