



9th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 8 Mid-year Assessments

In the week commencing 4th December, Year 8 students will complete mid-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 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 the students.

The core subject assessments will take place in the exam hall. The purpose of this is to support students in understanding exam procedures in preparation for key stage 4. All other 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 mid-year assessments will be used to monitor and review those students eligible to access The Bourne Scholars programme, as well as re-set students for core subjects and most importantly be used to inform teaching and intervention. Set changes will take place at February half term. The results of the assessments will be shared with parents via reports. The report will outline the % score your child achieved in their mid-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. There will be a parents evening on Wednesday 26 January to enable you to discuss the results with teachers and for staff to feedback how your child can continue to maximise their progress. In the summer, students will complete end of year assessments in each of their subjects and students will be re-set in core subjects in preparation for Year 9.

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 Betteridge (SENDCo and Exam Access Arrangements 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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