



Assessment Week

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Whitmore High School, we strive for all our pupils to achieve their full potential. To support them in this endeavour, we will be holding an Assessment Week from **Wednesday 13th December to Wednesday 20th December**. Please read below our plans for how Assessment Week will run.

What is Assessment Week?

Assessment Week is an opportunity for pupils to practise revising whilst also being assessed on the key skills in their relevant subjects. The current timetable will be collapsed for one week where pupils will have individual timetables with assessments and revision sessions allocated, as well as activity/exercise sessions with the PE department. Classes will be a mix of Years 7-13 to ensure parity and rigour across assessments.

For Years 7-9, all assessments will be 30 minutes. For Years 10-13 assessments will range from 45 minutes to 2 hours and will be based on past examination papers. The results from these assessments will inform staff on pupils' progress and attainment.

Due to classes being a mix of Years 7-13 (with an equal number of pupils from each year group), lunches will run slightly differently. Depending on which class a pupil is in, they will have break and lunch at the earlier times of 10.40 and 12.20 or the later times of 11.00 and 1.20. Pupils will be notified of this well in advance of Assessment Week.

What will my child be doing when not sitting an assessment?

Although one year group may not be sitting an assessment at a particular time, others may be. Therefore, pupils will be expected to revise in silence when not sitting their assessments. Pupils will be supported on effective revision strategies in the lead up to Assessment Week, as well as appropriate materials and support being distributed to all pupils from all subjects. During Assessment Week, there will be further support and materials to aid pupils' revision. We encourage pupils to bring in their own equipment and to be responsible for their own revision materials.

Similarly to a usual school day at Whitmore High, we will encourage pupils to not use the toilet when revising, and especially when sitting assessments. Pupils with an allocated Toilet Pass will continue to have access to toilets as they would on a typical school day.

What if my child accesses the ALC, Hub or Base?

Pupils who access the ALC, Hub or Base will have a bespoke plan where assessments will be planned in amongst a typical day of activities and learning.



What if my child has exam concessions or LSA support?

Exam concessions, such as extra time or access to a reader, will be adhered to during Assessment Week. LSA support will be available to pupils who usually have access to this level of support in school.

What happens if my child is absent from school?

Pupils will be expected to have full attendance during this week; however, we understand that illness may occur. Contact home will be made for non-authorised absence. Although we will endeavour to catch up pupils who miss assessments, the aim of Assessment Week is to replicate external examinations where resitting a missed examination is often not possible.

How can I support my child at home?

In the lead up to Assessment Week, you can support your child by helping them create a revision timetable, or supporting them with the creation of revision materials. Pupils will have access to knowledge organisers for each of their subjects, and it will be helpful if you could test your child(ren) on the core knowledge on these organisers.

Below are some useful links to support your child with revision and exam stress:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmy692p>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/>
- <https://www.teachertoolkit.co.uk/2022/05/31/16-tips-to-support-revision/>
- <https://www.wjec.co.uk/articles/how-to-get-the-most-from-our-knowledge-organisers/>

It is important for pupils to have breaks, eat well, and have plenty of sleep when sitting assessments and revising.

We hope you will join us in supporting your child(ren) in both the lead up and during Assessment Week.

Maria Palmizi
Assistant Headteacher