



27th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 8 Mid-Year Rank Order Assessments 13th – 24th January

Today we have launched the next Rank Order Assessment (ROA) process to your child. These exams will take place in all subjects between 13th – 24th January. Your child will come home today with a support booklet that includes guidance, revision strategies and a support page from each subject. The exam timetable will be communicated home in the last week before the Christmas holidays.

Students will be sitting their assessments for English, Maths and Science in the Roy Moore sports hall. This will mirror the exam process in year 11, so students get used to invigilators, the expectations and getting 'exam ready'. By Year 11, this process is then automatic, and students can focus on excelling in their exam. Please read with your child the JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) examination regulations and procedures so that they are aware of what is expected. The Class of 2030 had a brilliant start in the summer ROAs at meeting the JCQ regulations and we look forward to that continuing. The remaining subjects will be sat in the classroom in normal lesson time. Each subject has outlined a consistent number of revision lesson(s) prior to each exam to ensure parity for all classes.

Our trial of removing all homework for Year 8 during the exam period last year was successful and one we will continue moving forwards. It is fantastic to be able to talk to the children about what revision they are undertaking each evening and the confidence they then bring into the exams. Students will create an exam timetable in tutor time, please do encourage your child to follow it at home in place of their normal homework. Due to parent feedback, we have streamlined the support pages this year. They now make it clear what is essential revision for each subject and the resources required for this. The support pages also include additional revision for those who wish to do more. We hope this change is useful to students and parents/carers in knowing what to revise and when.

If your child misses an assessment due to illness, there will be a catch-up opportunity in the next lesson they are back in school. These will be done in departments, which means that the next lesson in that subject will be an opportunity for them to complete the assessment.

Results will be shared through a report and celebration afternoon on 11th February with stream changes taking place after half term on Monday 24th February. Parents evenings are being held for Avonbourne Boys' Academy on 12th February and Avonbourne Girls' Academy on 13th February.

Rank Order Assessments and streaming have both been used for a number of years at Avonbourne and other high performing schools, both locally and nationally, and are a key driver behind the improved academic outcomes. We passionately believe that all students can achieve exceptionally no matter their starting point but need to be taught at the correct level to make maximum progress. Our streams at Avonbourne are fluid, and the next set of exams will be at the end of Year 8 to inform streams for Year 9. A summary of how you can support your child with these important assessments is shown on the next page, along with the support we offer at school and the guidance we have given students today in assembly.

Principal: Michelle Dyer



Wrap-around support

Every adult at the Academies will work with your child to be successful and help bring out the best in them. They have a dedicated tutor, Head of Year, two Pastoral Leads, a vast array of subject teachers, and Head of Departments. We also implement exam access arrangement for those that qualify for extra time and readers in their core exams. If you have any questions or your child requires further support, please contact us at classof2030@avonbourneacademy.org.uk

I will write to you again when the results are released to give you more details of the celebration afternoon and the key messages that we will be giving to students to motivate them for the remainder of the academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Kidman
Assistant Principal

How can you support with Mid-Year Assessments at home?

- 100% attendance – a student who is in school and learning will have access to the whole curriculum and there will not be gaps in their knowledge
- Homework completion – homework consolidates the knowledge and understanding that has taken place in lessons, allowing students to practice, independently, the skills that are needed for success
- Discuss the Mid-Year Assessment Support Pack with your child – this document not only contains the assessment timetable but details the topics and resources needed to be successful in the assessments. Use these as a guide to help revisit topics and use as a checklist to be prepared
- Support your child to make (and stick to!) a revision timetable

What support do we provide?

- Clear information about the assessment process
- Subject support pages
- In-lesson revision sessions before the assessments
- Teach students how to revise and prepare for assessments outside of class time
- Revision videos and materials to be accessed outside of class time
- A dedicated pastoral, tutor and staff team that want to support your child to be successful and have a positive experience
- Explain to students the normal feeling of 'exam stress', strategies to support wellbeing, and where to seek further support if required
- An afternoon celebration event focusing on progress that the children have made

How can my child prepare for the Mid-Year Assessments?

- Attend school and work hard in lessons
- Carefully read through the subject support pages in the support booklet
- Watch any pre-recorded revision videos and utilise the revision materials provided
- Use knowledge organisers and complete Seneca assignments