



6th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Baseline assessments and information and 'Meet the Tutor' evening on Wednesday 25th September

We hope that your child has enjoyed their first week at Avonbourne and is settling in well. The Class of 2031 have made an excellent first impression and are consistently showcasing our REACH values every day. We are incredibly proud of them all!

As you will be aware, students at Avonbourne are currently taught in their mixed ability House groups. From October half term they will be placed in their teaching streams related to their current attainment. To place students in their stream, we use year 6 SATs results, NGRTs, and MidYIS assessment data. We are writing to let you know that students will begin undertaking these assessments over the next few weeks.

NGRTs are a 30-minute online reading assessment which will be completed during English lessons. Students cannot do anything to prepare for NGRT assessments, however, please continue to encourage your child to read for pleasure at home and visit our library at a lunchtime.

MidYIS stands for Middle Years Information System and are used in over 3000 secondary schools across the UK. There are four components to the MidYIS test:

- Vocabulary test – 10 min
- Maths test – 24 min
- Skills test contains three sections listed below: Proof-reading – approximately 4-5 x 1-minute exercises looking at spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- PSA – Perceptual Speed & Accuracy – this includes several 30-second bursts at comparing typed text with a 'hand-written' version. It goes on to ask the students to speedily compare strings of letters, numbers and symbols. The proof-reading and PSA are combined to give the "Skills" score.
- Non-verbal reasoning – Several 5-minute sections of exercises looking at cross-sections, block counting and pictures.

The Year 7 curriculum builds on and develops the Key Stage 2 curriculum. A baseline assessment in English and Maths at the start of Year 7 reviews core knowledge and skills covered in Key Stage 2 to help us identify what students can and cannot do - we use this information to review students' starting points and to ensure our curriculum is mapped to prior learning and builds upon this, revisiting key topics in depth to support the transition from Primary to Secondary school.

Whilst we will be encouraging students to take these assessments seriously and they will be completed in exam conditions, our focus continues to be on students making a successful transition to secondary school, and we do not wish to add any additional pressure for the students. Unlike the Rank Order Assessments which will be completed in June 2024, students cannot and do not need to revise in preparation for the subjects and just need to be encouraged to try their best. We passionately believe that all students can achieve exceptionally no matter their starting point but that they need to be taught at the correct level to make maximum progress.

Principal: Michelle Dyer



Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

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We hope you will be able to make our information and 'Meet the Tutor' evening on Wednesday 25th September. The evening will include a presentation discussing the streaming process further, introduce parents to homework and launch our exciting new enrichment programme. The presentation will be held twice, at 5pm and 6pm. Your child's tutor will be available to meet you between 5pm and 7pm.

Please **confirm your attendance and sign up to a presentation** by completing the Microsoft Form below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/udmK83EtN3>



Members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Pastoral Team will be available during the evening to answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to working with you and supporting you and your child over the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Kidman
Assistant Principal
Y7-10 Raising Standards

Coralie Crisell
Assistant Principal
Transition Lead

Principal: Michelle Dyer

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