School Exams & Assessments
Summer 2019
Information For Parents and Carers
of Year 7 Pupils
May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

During the Summer term pupils in Y7 and Y8 will be assessed in a number of ways. This booklet provides details of the timings and nature of these assessments and also information about what you can do to support your son or daughter during this period.

We are very aware that preparing for assessments and sitting tests can be the cause of stress and anxiety both for the pupils and for you, but hopefully this booklet will serve to provide you with some key information and also answer some of the questions you may have regarding this process.

If you do have any further concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school, using the details below. If you have not already done so, please sign up for ParentPay to get instant updates of important school information or details about school events.
(Please email syoung@cardiffhigh.co.uk for more information)

Kind Regards

Mr. S.M. Jones
Headteacher

USEFUL CONTACTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Achievement Leader for Y7</th>
<th>Mr. M. Olsen (<a href="mailto:MO@cardiffhigh.co.uk">MO@cardiffhigh.co.uk</a>)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Lower School</td>
<td>Mrs. A. Venn (<a href="mailto:AV@cardiffhigh.co.uk">AV@cardiffhigh.co.uk</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Learning Needs</td>
<td>Ms. H. Williams (<a href="mailto:HMW@cardiffhigh.co.uk">HMW@cardiffhigh.co.uk</a>)</td>
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Y7 & Y8 Assessment Fortnight
Monday June 3rd - Friday June 14th

Frequently Asked Questions

How will assessments be carried out?
Different subjects are assessed in different ways. For some subjects pupils will be assessed by formal exams taken within this fortnight window. Due to the large number of external exams taking place in our exam venues, Y7 & Y8 exams will take place during lessons in classrooms and will be controlled by your child’s normal subject teacher. Other subjects use alternative approaches, for example on-going assessment in lessons or by the submission of a project or extended piece of work.

How will I know the assessment method for each subject and how should my child prepare for the exams & assessments?
Each departments has provided specific guidance about how pupils will be assessed in their subject. They have also shared advice on the best ways for pupils to prepare. These details are contained in the tables on the following pages.

Why are there English & Maths Exams when pupils have to take the National Literacy and Numeracy Tests?
This is because the subjects of English and Maths cover far more content that just literacy and numeracy. The National Tests do not assess all of these topic areas and skills; for example the National Literacy Test does not assess writing skills. Exams in these key subjects are therefore necessary and the results of these are used in conjunction with the results of the National Tests to assess pupils’ progress and provide extra support where necessary.
Are there any Exam/Assessment Protocols?

We are really keen for pupils to establish good examination habits and would very much appreciate your support in this.

- It is vital that pupils ensure that they bring all necessary equipment with them
- Pupils should obviously arrive to school in good time, ready to make their very best effort when they come to complete their assessments
- Pupils should ensure that any mobile phones or other electronic devices are switched off
- Pupils must follow all instructions given by their teachers

What about children with Additional Learning Needs or who are eligible for extra time/readers/scribes etc?

Arrangements will be made for pupils who are eligible for special consideration. This can sometimes mean them sitting assessments in alternative venues. We will ensure that these pupils know the specific arrangements prior to the assessment date.

What happens if my child is absent for a test or exam?

We would be very grateful if any planned absence (eg medical appointments) could be avoided during this time. If an absence is unavoidable, then the pupil will need to sit any missed tests at a later date. This may mean them missing a lesson or lessons to sit the missed test on the day when they come back to school, so they should be prepared for this. If you know in advance that your child will have to miss a test or exam, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting their achievement leader.

When will we get the results of the assessments?

Teachers will often share the results of assessments with pupils in lessons during the weeks following the assessment period. However, feedback from these, together with other assessments carried out throughout the academic year, will contribute to each pupil’s full report which will be sent home at the end of the Summer Term.
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<th>Methods of Assessment &amp; Advice on How to Prepare</th>
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<td><strong>English Assessment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• A formal test which will take place in a lesson during the assessment fortnight (3rd - 14th June)</td>
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<td>• Pupils will be informed exactly when their class are sitting the assessment by their English teacher</td>
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<td><strong>English Revision Advice</strong></td>
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<td>• Think about the types of writing you have done this year in English. Do you know how to plan and structure a speech, a description, a letter or a narrative? You might be asked to write one of these text types so remind yourself how to do this by looking back through your books or by looking at BBC Bitesize</td>
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<td>• Work on accuracy. Visit <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise">www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise</a> to help you with apostrophes, commas and sentence types.</td>
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<td>• Follow @EnglishCHS on Twitter for extra grammar and vocabulary tips.</td>
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<td>• Focus on improving your spelling by creating spelling doodles for those tricky words. Use colour, images, and mnemonics e.g. Never Eat Cucumber Eat Salmon Sandwiches And Remain Young is a way of remembering how to spell necessary.</td>
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<td>• Read as much as possible. You should be reading for at least twenty minutes a day. Once you have completed a book, you can take a quiz using the Accelerated Reader programme. You can access this via the school website.</td>
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<td><strong>Maths Assessment</strong></td>
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<td>• A formal written test which will take place in a lesson during the assessment fortnight (3rd - 14th June). The online personalised numeracy assessment, which forms part of the national tests will also take place during this period.</td>
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<td>• Pupils will be informed exactly when their class are sitting assessments by their Maths teacher</td>
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<td><strong>Maths Revision Advice</strong></td>
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<td>• Show all your working and check your answers carefully - do they make sense?</td>
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<td>• As with your Autumn and Spring tests, your teachers will tell you which sections to complete, but you can always try harder questions as well.</td>
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<td>• Use online resources including <a href="http://www.MyMaths.co.uk">www.MyMaths.co.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.corbettmaths.com">www.corbettmaths.com</a></td>
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<td>• Your teacher will upload the summer revision materials to Google Classroom two weeks before the test. Use these to support your revision.</td>
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<td>• It will be useful to return to the Autumn and Spring revision sheets, tests and follow-up sheets to help you revise.</td>
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<td>• Look through your Autumn and Spring term tests to review your target topics</td>
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<td><strong>Science Assessment</strong></td>
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<td>• A formal test which will take place in a lesson during the assessment fortnight on either 12th, 13th or 14th June depending on the class.</td>
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<td>• Pupils will be informed exactly when their class are sitting the assessment by their Science teacher</td>
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<td><strong>Science Revision Advice</strong></td>
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<td>• Download the revision guides available on Google Classroom &amp; on Moodle.</td>
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<td>• Use KS3 BBC Bitesize</td>
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<td>• Use exercise books to review topic areas</td>
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<td>• Ask for help with anything you do not understand</td>
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| Art Assessment       | Pupils are assessed on the project work that they complete throughout the year.  
|                     | Pupils complete two projects each year in key stage 3, each project is broken into three signposted assignments.  
|                     | The signposted assignments that pupils work on throughout Key Stage 3 target three assessment areas: understanding, investigating and making. |
| Art Revision Advice | Make sure that you have acted on any feedback given.  
|                     | Use the writing/word frames to help expand your art vocabulary when talking about your own work and that of others.  
|                     | Spend time each week researching artists and designers who can inspire your own work. |
| DT Assessment       | Students will not complete a formal exam in Design & Technology, instead they are assessed on the project work that they complete throughout the year.  
|                     | In Year 7 students will take part in three, 12 week projects each year in the different specialisms of Design & Technology.  
|                     | Students will be assessed in the following areas:- Investigating, Designing, Planning, Making and Evaluating.  
|                     | Each project focuses on two out of the five assessment areas, with a separate level being awarded for each area. For example, in one project a student might achieve a level 4 for Investigating and a level 5 for Making.  
|                     | When reporting to parents, students are awarded a Level that best reflects their overall performance in each of the areas that have been assessed. |
| DT Revision Advice  | When analysing, explaining, annotating and evaluating make sure that you use P.E.E.  
|                     | Take special care with the presentation of your folder work. Using a black fine liner to outline drawings and annotate ideas is an easy way to enhance your work.  
|                     | Be responsible for ensuring that each every piece of work is completed to the best of your ability including spelling, punctuation and grammar. |
| French Assessment   | In French Year 7 study 3 units of work and assessment is ongoing throughout the year.  
|                     | They sit a series of listening, reading and writing tasks throughout the academic year at the end of each unit.  
|                     | Year 7 are currently working on unit 3 |
| French Revision Advice | The most important thing to do is PRACTISE. This means DO revision actively. How OFTEN you practise is essential. A little every day is better than lots in only one session.  
|                     | Use Quizlet each day – this will help you memorise key words, practise spelling and sentence structure.  
|                     | Make your own sets of cards on Quizlet – this will help you personalise your learning. Target key words which YOU have not yet been able to learn.  
|                     | Repeat class tasks – re-do reading texts and tasks we have done in class. Hide the answers and corrections and see if you can still tackle the challenges.  
|                     | Practise writing – Choose a task we have done in class. Practise writing each sentence until you can do this accurately. CHECK after each attempt.  
|                     | Use AudioFrench.com – Use this audio French dictionary to check and practise your pronunciation. You can also use frenchspanish.com to change a short written piece into a spoken piece. Listen to this and try to imitate it. |
## METHODS OF ASSESSMENT & ADVICE ON HOW TO PREPARE

### Geography Assessment
- In Geography pupils are completing projects for their end of year assessments.
- Year 7 will soon be working on their microclimate investigation project. Once they have collected all their data and looked at how to present data, they will be writing up their project.
- Pupils will be given deadlines for the submission of these projects by their Geography teachers.

### Geography Revision Advice
- Show the steps of your investigation.
- Include primary and secondary data.
- Present your findings in graphs and an annotated map.
- Describe and explain your findings to draw a conclusion to your investigation.
- Evaluate your project to explain what you have done well and what you could do to improve the reliability of your work next time.

### History Assessment
- In History pupils will be completing an assessment under timed conditions in class on interpretations of Llywelyn the Last.
- During the preparation lessons pupils will analyse the interpretation with their teacher, make notes and discuss how to do the write up.
- The assessment will take place in one lesson and pupils will be allowed their notes.
- Pupils will be given the exact date for their assessment by their class teacher.

### History Revision Advice
- Ensure that you have read over your notes.
- Use the micro script in the booklet to help you frame the answer.
- Try to do some of your own research into the topic.

### ICT Assessment
- Pupils will sit a 1 hour on-screen examination.
- The exam will assess practical and theoretical understanding of:
  - Desk Top Publishing
  - E-Safety
  - Logo
  - Spreadsheets
- This assessment is likely to take place during the first two weeks of June, dependent on when ICT lessons fall. Pupils will be given the exact date by their ICT teacher.

### ICT Revision Advice
- Look on Google Classroom and check that you understand the learning outcomes of the topics covered in your lessons.
- Learn and understand the meaning of key terminology used for each topic covered.
## METHODS OF ASSESSMENT & ADVICE ON HOW TO PREPARE

### Music Assessment
- There is not a formal exam in music, but students will complete an end of unit composing assessment.
- Year 7 have been assessed on singing work (including technique and intonation), instrumental tuned percussion playing and instrumental keyboard playing.
- We have recently started a composing topic whereby pupils will be working on composing their own melody patterns and using the musical elements to enhance their work.

### Music Revision Advice
- Top tips for performance work: **Fluency** **Accuracy** **Sensitivity** **Technique**
- Top tips for composition work: **Ideas** **Development** **Evaluating** **Appropriate elements**
  - Structure
  - Aim to produce an imaginative composition with well developed musical ideas.
  - Use a variety of musical elements in their work and carefully place dynamics.
  - Ensure their melody has a good sense of shape and is catchy.

### PE Assessment
- Assessments in PE occur at the end of each activity block and are informal. Progress is ongoing throughout the academic year.
- Overall levels in Physical Education reflect competency across all activities not just a specialism in one.

### PE Revision Advice
- Attend extra curricular clubs both inside and outside of school.
- Practise your skills and take responsibility for continuing to improve your own levels of personal fitness.

### RP Assessment
- Assessment in Religion and Philosophy is continuous and is based on signposted assignments, class work and verbal contributions.

### RP Revision Advice
- Contribute to class discussions.
- Complete all signposted assessments to the very best of your ability.
- Take an interest in how religious issues feature in the news and world events.

### Welsh Assessment
- Welsh assess in 3 areas:- reading, writing and speaking.
- The reading and writing assessment will take place in lessons during the week beginning 3rd June.
- The speaking assessment will take place in lessons during the week starting 10th June.
- Exact dates have been provided by subject teachers and are also displayed on Welsh classroom doors.

### Welsh Revision Advice
- The Year 7 topics are School and Hobbies.
- The reading assessment will be comprehension type questions based on these topics. Revise key question words e.g. When? Where? Why? etc
- For the writing assessment learn sentence patterns for giving opinions, connecting words, adjectives, tenses and key vocabulary relating to school and hobbies.
- For the speaking assessment prepare and learn a 2 minute presentation about yourself - hobbies, family, age, school life etc. Create a powerpoint (with pictures only) to help you remember the detail. Full details on page 23/24 of the Hobbies booklet.