



22nd May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following extensive discussion with staff, governors, students and parents, we will be introducing a revised assessment model from September 2026.

The purpose of this change is not simply to alter when assessments happen, but to strengthen how students learn over time and to help them become more independent, confident and reflective learners.

Our aims are to:

- develop pupils as independent learners by building secure knowledge, effective study habits and the ability to monitor and improve their own learning over time
- create a clear and consistent whole-school assessment structure so students and families know exactly when assessment points will take place
- provide meaningful checkpoints for learning without creating unnecessary frequency or pressure

Educational research, including guidance from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), highlights that many pupils benefit from explicit structures and routines to help them develop independence and effective study habits. Predictable assessment cycles and clear preparation guidance support stronger long-term learning.

At present, assessments can sometimes feel frequent and uncoordinated across subjects. While regular assessment remains important, too many disconnected assessments can encourage short-term revision rather than deeper understanding and retention over time.

From September 2026, the majority of subjects will move to three assessment windows across the academic year. There may be some exceptions where curriculum requirements mean a different structure is needed.

Assessment remains an important part of education. It helps teachers identify strengths and gaps in learning, allows students to practise retrieving and applying knowledge, and prepares them gradually for the demands of GCSE and other formal examinations. However, we believe assessment should support learning rather than dominate it.

A more coordinated approach will also allow us to communicate assessment dates and preparation guidance much more clearly to families at the start of the year so that parents are better able to support learning at home. Further information, including assessment window dates will be shared at the start of the academic year.

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We carefully considered the feedback from our parent survey when developing this new approach. A common theme was the desire for greater clarity, consistency and communication around assessments so that families can better support preparation at home. Parents also highlighted the importance of balancing meaningful assessment with student wellbeing, ensuring that assessments support learning without creating unnecessary pressure.

We want to work closely with parents so that together we can support students not only to achieve well academically, but also to develop healthy and sustainable approaches to learning. We have already communicated information on monthly parent workshops designed to help families support learning and revision at home. We will introduce a new Parents' Information Evening for Years 8 to 10 at the start of the school year to share key information and strengthen our partnership with families. Note: Year 11 already have a Parents' Information Evening. The dates for these events will be communicated by the end of this academic year.

To discuss the new assessment policy, you are warmly invited to attend an informal coffee morning at school on Wednesday 10th June 2026 from 9:15-10:15am. Please arrive at 9:10am for a prompt 9:15am start in the main hall. To confirm your attendance please [click here to complete a short form](#) by Monday 8th June.

The session will provide an opportunity to ask questions, discuss how this policy will be implemented at our school (see details on the next page), and gain a clearer understanding of how these changes will support our students. Parking will be available in the staff car park at the side of the school. We aim to finish at 10:15am. I look forward to welcoming you and sharing this time with you over coffee.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Mr Persand
Deputy Headteacher

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