



18th September 2019

PART OF RAINFORD ACADEMIES TRUST

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer and that your child has settled well back into school. I would like to inform you of some exciting changes to our Key Stage 3 (KS3) curriculum.

Our broad and balanced curriculum gives our students a depth and breadth of knowledge, skills and understanding. We want our curriculum to inspire all students to learn and do more. Throughout KS3, students develop skills that prepare them to be successful in a linear KS4 curriculum. These skills include the ability to revise, to write at length to explain an answer and to explain the knowledge they have developed in a coherent and articulate manner.

To support this aim, we have made the following changes to **KS3 Assessment**.

At the beginning of each unit of work, pupils will receive a **Knowledge Organiser** which they can use to self-quiz and learn the expected knowledge. All subjects will assess students regularly to identify and fill any gaps in their knowledge. Knowledge Organisers for the 13 subjects that your child studies, can be found here: <http://rainford.org.uk/ks3-knowledge-organisers/>

Students will also sit formal assessments in all subjects. These happen twice a year in Year 8. The dates of these **Assessment Fortnights** are shown below. The results of these assessments, together with the teacher assessed grade, and an outline of how your child can improve, will be reported home three times a year, as the dates below show.

Date	Activity
Monday 18th November – Friday 29th November	Assessment Fortnight 1
<i>w/c Monday 16th December</i>	<i>Progress Report sent home</i>
<i>w/c Monday 24th February</i>	<i>Progress Report sent home</i>
Thursday 5 th March	Parents' Evening
Monday 27th April – Friday 8th May	Assessment Fortnight 2
<i>w/c Monday 1st June</i>	<i>Progress Report sent home</i>

In our KS3, all subjects have an overlapping pathway approach which challenges all students to achieve their maximum, whatever their prior attainment. Each subject has a **Progress Ladder** that supports assessment judgements which is linked to clear assessment criteria. These can be viewed here: <http://rainford.org.uk/KS3-progress-ladders/>

In reporting progress, we use the following system:

- 1 = Exceeding expected progress**
- 2 = Making expected progress**
- 3 = Below expected progress**
- 4 = Cause for concern**

Prior to each Assessment Fortnight, I will communicate home the key topics that your child needs to revise for each subject.

KS3 Homework

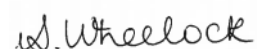
Our curriculum is designed to enable students to develop learning and revision skills so they can achieve maximum success in their final linear examinations. Each half-term, there will therefore be the following homework:

- **Revision homeworks** based on departments' Knowledge Organisers in preparation for low stakes knowledge tests.
- Twice a year in Year 8, there will be Assessment Fortnights for all subjects. In preparation for these formal assessments, **revision homework** will be set.
- To develop students' vocabulary and help foster a love for reading, each department will share two subject-specific articles and set them as **reading homeworks**. These homeworks can be viewed here: <http://rainford.org.uk/ks3-homeworks/> and have comprehension tests linked to each article on Show My Homework.

This is a crucial period in your child's education and any support you can provide in line with the school's provision will be highly beneficial. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate in contacting your child's subject teacher. Information on each department, including staff contact details and a termly overview of topics taught per subject, can be found on our website: <http://rainford.org.uk/ks3-curriculum/>.

If you have any queries regarding your child's progress in general, please contact your child's Learning Leader, Mr Stow (r.stow@rainford.org.uk) or Pastoral Leader, Mrs Sheedy (l.sheedy@rainford.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S Wheelock
Senior Director Curriculum & Assessment.