



RAINFORD HIGH

24th 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 three times a year in Year 9. 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 7th October – Friday 18th October	Assessment Fortnight 1
<i>w/c Monday 11th November</i>	<i>Progress Report sent home</i>
Monday 24th February – Friday 6th March	Assessment Fortnight 2
<i>w/c Monday 23rd March</i>	<i>Progress Report sent home</i>
Thursday 26 th March	Parents' Evening
Monday 8th June – Friday 19th March	Assessment Fortnight 3
<i>w/c Monday 6th July</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. As the Year 9 Assessment Fortnight 1 will take place in a few weeks' time, please find below an overview of revision. Please encourage your child to use their Knowlledge Oreganiser to revise.

Subject	Topics to revise
Art / Design & Technology*	<p><u>One</u> of the following, based on the current rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art – Distorted Project / Identity Project techniques. • Food – Pastry and cake techniques. • RM – the stages of manufacture, the technical terms for tools and material; CAD/CAM process; categories of plastics. • Graphics – Designer clock and packaging. • Textiles –Dying and printing techniques.
Computer Science	Esafety and how to stay safe online, computer systems and how data is input and output from these systems. The difference between different logic gates and binary and denary. What the CPU is and different network topologies.
Drama	Blood Brothers practical - staged scene with devised ending and monologue. Written evaluation to include key vocabulary.
English	Key quotations, context, themes and characters of the novel studied: To Kill a Mockingbird, Of Mice and Men, Animal Farm.
English (Excel)	Improving vocabulary using a thesaurus, writing for the correct audience, using different types of sentences and using a wide range of punctuation correctly
Geography	Dark Tourism - why people visit dark tourism sites and the positives and negatives of it.
History	How Jewish communities were persecuted under the Nazis. Why Hitler targeted the Jewish community.
Maths**	Foundation (9R4, R5 and H4): Integers, Rounding, Use of symbols. Higher (9R1, R2, R3, H1, H2 and H3): Integers, Rounding, Use of symbols, Properties of polygons.
Maths (Excel)	Integers, Rounding, Use of symbols
MFL (Spanish)	School subjects and opinions, school rules, comparatives and superlatives to describe teachers, future study plans. Plus the following topics from Year 8: past holidays, clothes.
Music	The Blues practical - performance of bassline, chords and improvisation. Written evaluation to include key vocabulary.
PE	<p><u>One</u> of the following, based on the current rotation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE PE - muscular and skeletal systems, • Fitness Testing and Training - components of fitnesss, fitness tests, principles of training, methods of training. • Sports Leadership - skills and qualities of a leader, planning a skills session

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Games - knowledge of the skills, rules and tactics of the sports you have performed in during the unit. • Sport Studies - completion and final submission of your sports studies task that you have been working on during the unit.
RE	Crime, punishment and forgiveness, Business Ethics and Globalisation, including references to religious quotations.
Science	Biology: Cells; Breathing and Respiration; Adaptation and evolution Chemistry: Particle Model; Environmental Chemistry - Greenhouse effect; Reactions of acids and metals Physics: Magnets and Electromagnets; Sound Speed, Distance and time.

**Please note that the D&T and Art assessment will take place at the end of the rotation, in the final week of the half-term, w/c 2^{1st} October.*

***Please note that, as the Maths department start the GCSE course in Year 9, their assessments will take place slightly later on the w/c 4th November to ensure they have covered enough content.*

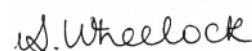
Our curriculum is designed to enable students to develop learning and revision skills so they can achieve maximum success in their final linear examinations. Each half-term, there will therefore be the following **KS3 Homeworks**:

- **Revision homeworks** based on departments' Knowledge Organisers in preparation for low stakes knowledge tests.
- Three times a year in Year 9, 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 Skerry (a.skerry@rainford.org.uk) or Pastoral Leader, Mrs Moore (a.moore@rainford.org.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Mrs S Wheelock
Senior Director Curriculum & Assessment.