



Dear Parent/Carer,

My name is Pete Whitehouse and I am an Assistant Headteacher at The Emmbrook School. My main responsibilities include the assessment, recording and reporting of student progress. I am writing to you with an update on the year 7 and 8 assessment and monitoring cycle.

I would like to start by saying how impressed and delighted I have been with the conduct and attitude of our returning students. As the school reopened fully to all students and the testing regime was rolled out, all our students have returned to us with a positive and upbeat attitude. The school feels full and purposeful. Now the testing cycle is complete, the next task for year 7 and 8 is to reestablish all those in-school learning routines and habits. We must also ensure that everyone is in a suitable frame of mind for the learning challenges to come.

Clearly the events of this past year have had an unprecedented impact on life and the school calendar is no exception. By now, in a 'normal' year, both year 7 and 8 would have carried out a number of class assessments in all of their subjects and their progress reported home.

Given the disrupted nature of term 1 and the online learning for most of term 2, the school assessment calendar has needed to be completely rewritten.

Our key assessment priorities in school are to ensure that year 11 and 13 are supported in their final few weeks before they finish their time in school. The assessment of these year groups is taking place over this half term.

I am very aware that our year 7 and 8 students need to carry out some assessments so we can gain insight in to where students are learning and achieving well as well as identify any gaps that may need filling. With this in mind, I have prioritized assessing year 7 and 8 in the first few weeks after the Easter break. All the assessments will take place in classrooms in timetabled lessons. The outcomes of the assessments and the progress being made by your child will then be reported to you.

The assessments will take place in the weeks beginning:

Year 7 – 19th April

Year 8 – 3rd May

Individual subject teachers will inform each class of when their specific assessment time/date is.

All the preparation needed for the assessments will be set via Show My HomeWork and resourced via MS TEAMS. These assessments are nothing for the students to worry about but each student should prepare themselves appropriately for them. If students are concerned about their assessments they should talk to their individual teacher or form tutor to discuss what is worrying them. We are here to help!

If you have any questions around the upcoming assessments, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

I wish you and your family a productive final fortnight in school and then a very relaxing, enjoyable and, most importantly, a safe Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)



FAQ's

Q) Can/should my child prepare for the assessments?

- A) They should follow the advice/guidance/instructions from their teachers. Use the resources and tasks they will be set. They should do as much preparation as the teachers advise them to do

Q) What if my child does badly?

- A) Assessments aren't about doing 'badly'. They tell your child, you and the school the strengths and areas for development. They inform us as to next steps advice.

Q) What happens with the results?

- A) Schools use the information to help us plan better lessons. The outcome of the assessments will also be reported home via the monitoring cycle.

Q) My child can't access SMHW or TEAMS, what should they do?

- a) Ask their tutor for help!! As a matter of urgency.