

September 2026

Dear Families,

Year 8 Cycle 1 Assessments

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child upholds our core values of resilience, integrity, and courtesy to ensure our school is a place where everyone feels welcome, and everyone succeeds.

We are approaching Cycle 1 Assessments for Year 8. Students will complete assessments in all subjects and these will be held between **5 October and 16 October**. Assessments will mostly take place in classrooms this cycle under exam conditions.

At Dixons McMillan, we use assessment to make inferences about student progress and to ensure that all students receive the support they need. Teachers will analyse students' performance in these assessments in order to plan the most effective interventions in class.

Students will receive their results in class, and you will receive a Cycle 1 Report in December with details of the percentage scored by your child, along with how these compare with the average year-group performance across the school.

Please can you help your child to prepare for these assessments by:

- Providing them with a quiet space to revise
- Discussing their Cycle 1 assessments with them
- Guiding them to use their revision material and 100% folders
- Talking to them about their concerns or fears.

Please see overleaf for the schedule of assessments and the topics they will cover.

We would like to wish all our students the very best of luck and continue to thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Murray
Vice Principal



Assessment Timetable:

- Your assessments will take place during week 6 and 7 (weeks commencing 5th & 16th October).
- Please familiarise yourself with your assessment timetable. Most assessments will take place in your usual classroom, at the normal lesson time (assessments in shaded cells will take place in the Sports Hall).
- Only the classes listed will be sitting the assessment at that specific time.
- Highlight your class code to show you when you will be sitting each assessment.

Week A		Mon 5 Oct	Tue 6 Oct	Wed 7 Oct	Thu 8 Oct	Fri 9 Oct
Cycle 1 Week 6 (w/c 05.10.26)	MM					
	P1					8B Art/Dt/Tx
	P2	A Band Spanish Listening and Reading 8B/Ge2 and 8B/Ge3 Geography 8B/Co1 Computing	8B/En2 English Paper 1	B Band Maths Paper 2 8A/En2 English Paper 1	8B/En1 & 8B/En3 English Paper 1	8A/Pa1 PA
	BR	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
	P3		B Band Spanish Listening and Reading 8A/Ge2 Geography 8A/En1 English 1		8B/Re1 RE	A Band Maths Paper 2
	P4	ALL Maths Paper 1 (8A/Ma2 to complete in Science Lesson – HAA)				8A/Pa2 PA
	LUN	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
	P5			ALL Science		8A/Re1 & 8A/Re2 RE
	P6	8B/Hi1 and 8B/Hi3 History 8B/Re2 RE	8B/Hi2 History 8B/Co3 Computing	8A/Hi2 History	8A Art/Dt/Tx	
Week B		Mon 12 Oct	Tue 13 Oct	Wed 14 Oct	Thu 15 Oct	Fri 16 Oct
Cycle 1 Week 7 (w/c 12.10.26)	MM					
	P1		A Band Spanish Writing 8B/En3 English Paper 2	8B/Ge1 Geography 8B/Pa2 PA		
	P2	8A/Hi1 History 8B/Re3 RE 8B/Pa1 PA 8B/En2 English 2				
	BR	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK
	P3	8A/Co2 Computing	8A/Ge1 Geography			8B/Pa3 PA
	P4					
	LUN	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
	P5	8A/Co1 Computing	B Band Spanish Writing			8B/Co2 Computing
	P6	A Band English Paper 2	8B/En1 English Paper 2			



Subject	What should I revise?
English	Comprehension, language analysis, descriptive writing. Understand what utopias and dystopias are.
Maths	In maths, any topics on the National Curriculum could be seen on an assessment paper. Here are some suggested revision topics; algebra (expanding and factorising, solving equations, simplifying, substitution, co-ordinates), number (standard form, surds, fractions, percentages, ratio, types of number), geometry (area and perimeter, 3D shapes and volume, pythagoras and trigonometry, transformations, similarity), data (averages and range, graphs and charts, probability). <i>Please use your 100% sheets and sparx to guide your revision.</i>
Science	Science Skills (Variables, drawing graphs, analysing result tables and writing conclusions), Cells, life processes & microscopy, Atoms, elements, compounds & mixtures, Particles & solutions, Body, Metals & reactivity.
Geography	Types of Geography, plant animal adaptations, causes of climate change, hazard risk, describing maps and graphs using GCSE, responding to hazards (monitoring, prediction, planning and protection) and primary / secondary effects.
History	Recap and review all Y7 History content; Pre-Colonial African Kingdoms (Kingdom of Benin, Mali Empire, Asante Empire)
Spanish	Free time: sports, music, phones, tv & film, opinions and reasons. Holidays: travel, locations, weather, activities, past and future tenses.
RE	Ethics: use 100% booklets to revise crime, death penalty, value of the world (stewardship and dominion), animal experimentation.
Computing	HTML Basics, Tags, Creating we pages, inserting images, managing folders/organising files. This will be an online assessment completed on MS Teams. (Also includes small amounts from Y7 topics – E Safety, Computer Systems, Spreadsheets, Scratch)
PE	This is a practical assessment
Art/DT/Drama/Textiles	These subjects will be assessed based on some practical activities and a short, related written test.

