

January 2023

Year 8 Cycle 2 Assessments

Dear Families,

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 2 Assessments for Year 8. Students will complete assessments in all subjects and these will be held between **18 February and 1 March** (just after the half-term break). Assessments will take place in class during the usual timetabled lessons.

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 in Year 8 will have two sets of cycle assessments; their second assessment period will be in the summer. Students will receive their results in class, and you will receive a Cycle 2 Report in April with details of the percentage scored by your child, along with how this compares with the average year-group performance.

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

- Providing them with a quiet space to revise
- Discussing their Cycle 2 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. Your child will be given a more comprehensive revision checklist to support with their studies.

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

Yours faithfully,



Lydia Gayle
Assistant Vice Principal



Subject	Focus of Assessment and Topics to Revise
English	Grammar, active reading, comprehension, descriptive writing, language analysis, narrative writing.
Maths	Linear sequences, averages, angles, forming equations, ratio, percentages, area and perimeter, constructing bisectors, data and averages, reflection, probability, standard form and indices.
Science	Cells, life processes and microscopy, forces and space, atoms, elements, compounds, mixtures, particles and solutions, reproduction, body, metals and reactivity, forces and motion, chemical reactions.
Spanish	Where you live, what you do in your free time, media, holiday activities, past holidays, ideal holidays, food, going to a party.
RE	Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, arguments for and against the death penalty.
History	Kingdom of Benin, Mali Empire, Songhay Empire, European Empires, Asante empire, Transatlantic Slave Trade, Abolitionism, French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars, Pax Britannica, Industrial Revolution and Saltaire, First World War, Russian Revolution.
Geography	Latitude, longitude, continents and oceans, water, rock and nutrient cycle, climate change, cities, OS map skills, causes and responses to wildfires.
PE	Practical assessment: skill, effort, knowledge and application.
Music	Musical theory
Drama	Stage types, staging positions, vocal skills, physical skills, drama skills, theatre roles, documentary drama.
Computing	Internet safety, adobe photoshop, binary, operating systems, python.
DT	Electronic components, tools and equipment, timbers, polymers.
Textiles	Sewing machine, embroidery, analysing artists' work, fabric construction.
Food	Nutrition and nutrients, four c's, eat well guide
Art	Colour theory, formal elements, history of typography.

