

Plympton Academy

Moorland Road, Plympton, Plymouth, PL7 2RS

Principal: Ms Lisa Boorman

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12th January 2021

Re: End of Semester 1 Assessments

Dear Parent/Carer,

During the academic year, students undertake two formal assessment points at the end of each of the two Semesters. During weeks 19 and 20 (24th January - 4th February) students will complete an assessment in each of their subjects focussed on the learning carried out during the Semester. The purpose of the end of Semester assessments are as follows:

- To gather relevant information about students performance or progress based upon their *application* of knowledge, skills, and understanding over the semester
- Diagnosing and providing feedback on individual strengths and weaknesses against predetermined criteria to accelerate future learning
- An opportunity for students to reflect on their learning and develop learning/revision skills
- To formally report back to parents and student

The end of Semester assessments are a highly effective and robust way of not only measuring learning but also to develop students' long-term memory and prepare them for the demands of terminal examinations in the future. The outcomes of the assessment will be used to feedback progress and attainment to parents.

We are committed to supporting students through the assessment process which we recognise can be a daunting experience, particularly when encountered for the first time. Tutors will lead sessions on revision techniques and managing exam stress in the lead up to the assessment period. Lesson time to support students in their preparation and revision for the examinations. The table overleaf summaries the homework format during and leading up to the assessment period.

The focus and dates of all end of Semester assessments have been posted onto Class Charts as an announcement; students have also been notified of these pivotal assessments in lessons and are preparing for them via structured guidance by their class teacher and tutor.

If you have any questions regarding the end of semester assessments please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Paul McCormack

Assistant Principal



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Timeline

Wk 16 W/C 3.1	Wk 17 W/C 10.1	Wk 18 W/C 17.1	Wk 19 Assessments W/C 24.1	Wk 20 Assessments W/C 31.1
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Homework Guidance

Years 7 & 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From January, lessons will focus on assessment preparation Revision-based homework will commence from Week 18 (w/c 17th January) in line with their current homework timetable. Students are to complete their homework in their Remote Learning exercise books unless students are using online platforms such as Hegarty, Seneca etc. The focus and dates of the assessments will be communicated through a Class Charts announcement, linking to revision resources on Google Classroom.
Year 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homework will be set in the usual manner - with an assessment focus where appropriate.
Years 11 & 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Because of the recent mocks, students will not necessarily sit assessments in all subjects. No changes to the homework timetable; homework focussed on revision where students are sitting end of semester assessments.
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision-based homework to commence from Week 18 (w/c 17th January) in line with their current homework timetable, directed by the class teacher to review and revise content from Semester 1. Class teachers will set one homework on Class Charts to cover the w/c 17th January for the duration of the assessment window (Weeks 17 - 20). During the assessment, students place evidence of revision on desks - teachers to mark off the single revision homework on Classcharts. The focus and dates of the assessments will be communicated through a Class Charts announcement, linking to revision resources on Google Classroom.
Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision-based homework to commence from Week 18 (w/c 17th January) in line with their current homework timetable (no Bedrock homework), directed by the class teacher to review and revise content from Semester 1 Class teachers will set one homework on Class Charts to cover the w/c 17th January for the duration of the assessment window (weeks 17 - 20). During the assessment, students to place evidence of revision on desks which staff will mark off on Class Charts The focus and dates of the assessments will be communicated through a Class Charts announcement, linking to revision resources on Google Classroom.



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