

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the half-term break, I am writing to share some information regarding the upcoming internal assessments for our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, which will take place shortly after we return.

The primary purpose of these assessments is to gather internal data that allows us to track progress accurately. This information is incredibly valuable to our teachers for understanding attainment, and it ensures that the data we provide in your child's end-of-year report is as precise and helpful as possible.

Why are we doing this?

While these assessments cover the same material as our usual end-of-term or end-of-year tests, we are introducing a slightly more formal environment for certain subjects. We have run our assessments this way in previous years, and we find it offers two distinct benefits:

- **Valuable Data:** It gives teachers a clear picture of what pupils have mastered and where they might need a little extra support.
- **Vital Experience:** It introduces pupils to formal exam conditions in a safe, low-stakes environment, helping them build confidence and preparation for future public examinations.

How the Exams Will Work

To ensure a smooth experience that fits naturally into the school day, we have put the following arrangements in place:

- **Locations:** To give pupils a genuine taste of different exam environments, some assessments will take place in the main hall, while others will be held in their regular classrooms.
- **Timing:** All exams will be conducted during normal lesson time, meaning every assessment will be under one hour in length.
- **Formats:** The style of assessment will vary depending on the subject. Some will be practical exams designed to let pupils showcase their hands-on skills, while others

'Let your light shine before others' Matthew 5 v 16
Executive Head Teacher: Mr Daniel Jeffries BA(Hons) MA NPQH NPQEL

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Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - Selwood Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and we expect all members of staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.



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will utilize Google Forms—a digital format the pupils are already very familiar with and use regularly.

Please reassure your child that these exams are similar to their normal assessments and the information does not get shared with their next school (if they are in year 8). They are purely a tool for learning. Because of this, our main message to the pupils is to relax. We do not want anyone feeling anxious or overwhelmed. Instead, we view this as a wonderful opportunity for pupils to let their light shine across the curriculum and showcase what they have learned this year.

Ultimately, all that matters is that they show up, focus, and simply do their best. Thank you for your continued support. I wish you and your family a restful half-term break.

Yours sincerely

Dave Finlay
Head of school

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