



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

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15th December 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of a long, exciting and productive term, I wanted to update you on some developments with how we are supporting your child, as well as informing you of some key dates and upcoming events in the New Year.

KS3 mid-year assessments

From Wednesday 10th January, students in years 7, 8 and 9 will sit their end of term assessments according to the timetable below. These will take place in the school hall and each last for around 40 minutes. There will be one paper per subject, with the exception of maths, where there will be both a calculator and non-calculator paper.

	Weds 10/1	Thurs 11/1	Fri 12/1	Mon 15/1	Tues 16/1	Weds 17/1	Thurs 18/1	Fri 19/1
P1-2*	English Yr 9	English Yr 8	Maths Yr 8	Geography Yr 9 RS Year 9	Maths Yr 7	Art Yr 9 PE Yr 9	MfL Yr 7	Art Yr 8 PE Yr 8
P3-4	English Yr 7	Maths Yr 9	Science Yr 9	Science Yr 8	History Yr 8	RS Year 7	History Yr 9	MfL Yr 9
P6	RS Year 8	Science Yr 7	History Yr 7	PE Yr 7	Art Yr 7	MfL Yr 8	Geography Yr 8	Geography Yr 7

*To include tutor time when 2 assessments taking place in that window.

These assessments are an excellent opportunity for your child to demonstrate what they have learnt this academic year. They will be sat in the hall to ensure that all students in each year group can sit the papers at the same time, and to allow the students to get used to sitting assessments where they will eventually be sitting their GCSE exams at the end of Year 11. When your child is not sitting an assessment, they will attend their normal lessons.

On Monday 22nd January there will be a catch up day for any students to sit papers they may have missed. Computing assessments will take place during the following week in timetabled computing lessons, so the computers can be used. After the assessments have been marked, we will then use the results to report back to you with a percentage and a GCSE grade range that we feel will be likely at the end of Year 11. This is in line with White Horse Federation policy. To support your child in their preparation, staff are uploading knowledge organisers and any other relevant material for students to review on Satchel One.

Year 9 options

Year 9 will soon begin the process of choosing their GCSE options. There will be an information evening for parents and students of Year 9 on **Tuesday 6th February at 5pm.**

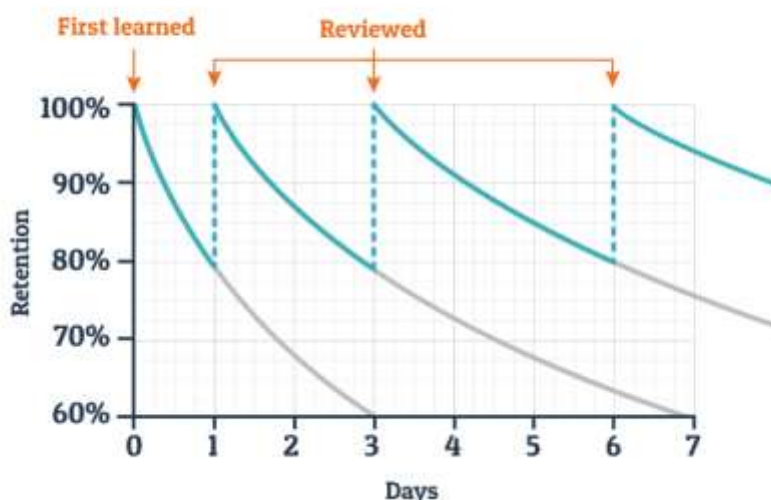
Year 10 mock examinations

These are scheduled to take place from the 22nd April 2024. Further details will be communicated nearer the time.

Homework support

As supported by the latest educational research, our homework will continue to be retrieval based, focusing on learning what students have been studying in their lessons. In assemblies, students have been shown the 'Ebbinghaus's forgetting curve' graph below, illustrating that the learning of information into our long term memory comes when material is returned to after it has been taught. We do this in our lessons through our 'Do now activities' and homework is part of our strategy to embed this.

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



This will mean that students in Year 7, 8 and 9 (KS3) will continue to be set quizzes through Satchel One. Year 10 students have been using Tassomai, which asks questions each day and week, based on their learning in English, maths and science together with history, geography and computer science (if they are studying these subjects). Parents of students in Year 10 should receive a weekly report of your child's progress. Further details of this can be found [here](#) with a useful explanation video [here](#). Tassomai are running an exciting January challenge where students can win up to £100 in Amazon vouchers for [completing 20 daily goals](#). Year 10 students will also receive homework assignments linked to their GCSE courses.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Freddie Forder
Vice Principal Academic

