



Ark Charter
Academy

Assessment Point 1

Year 8

Parent Information Booklet

This booklet contains details of the assessments that your child will be taking in the upcoming half term. These assessments will take place during assessment weeks (20th November – 1st December). Please refer to the assessment timetable overleaf, in some subjects the date the students will sit their assessment varies depending on which class they are in.

You will receive an interim report following these assessments so you can see how your child is progressing.

Please contact l.headland@charteracademy.org.uk if you have any other queries about the assessments.

Monday 20th November-Friday 1st December

A Band Assessment Timetable

If your child's classes are the subject code followed by A-1, A-2 or A-3 they are in the A band.

Year 8 A Band

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20	21	22	23	24
P1	P1	P1	P1	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3	P3 Drama A-1 50m, Drama A-3 50m	P3 ITA-1 50m	P3 Science Paper 1 30m
P4 ITA-2 50m, Music A-3 50m	P4 Music A-1 50m	P4 Mathematics Paper 1 60m (HPT)	P4	P4
P5	P5 Drama A-2 50m, ITA-3 50m	P5	P5 Music A-2 50m	P5 Art A-2 50m
P6 English Paper 1h15m (HPT)	P6 Art A-1 50m, Art A-3 50m	P6	P6 Spanish Listening Paper 25m	P6
27	28	29	30	1
P1	P1 Science Paper 2 30m	P1 Spanish Reading Paper 20m	P1 Geography 45m	P1
P2	P2	P2	P2	P2
P3 History 45m	P3	P3	P3 RE 8A-2 45m	P3 Science Paper 3 30m
P4	P4	P4 Mathematics Paper 2 30m (HPT)	P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5 RE 8A-1 45m	P5 Art A-2 50m, RE A-3 45m
P6	P6 Art A-1 50m, Art A-3 50m	P6	P6	P6

(HPT) indicates the mock exam/assessment is taking place in Hornpipe.

Monday 20th November-Friday 1st December

B Band Assessment Timetable

If your child's classes are the subject code followed by B-1, B-2 they are in the B band.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
20	21	22	23	24
P1 ITB-1 50m, Drama B-2 50m P2 Art B-1 50m P3 P4 P5 P6 Mathematics Paper 1 60m (HPT)	P1 P2 P3 ITB-2 50m P4 P5 P6 Drama B-1 50m, Music B-2 50m	P1 P2 Art B-2 50m P3 P4 P5 P6	P1 P2 P3 Science Paper 1 30m P4 P5 P6	P1 Music B-1 50m P2 P3 P4 P5 Spanish Listening Paper 25m P6
27	28	29	30	1
P1 P2 Art B-1 50m, RE B-2 45m P3 P4 Science Paper 2 30m P5 P6 Mathematics Paper 2 30m (HPT)	P1 P2 P3 P4 Geography 45m P5 P6	P1 P2 Art B-2 50m, RE B-1 50m P3 P4 P5 P6 English Paper 1h15m (HPT)	P1 Spanish Reading Paper 20m P2 P3 Science Paper 3 30m P4 P5 P6	P1 P2 P3 History 45m P4 P5 P6

(HPT) indicates the mock exam/assessment is taking place in Hornpipe.



Assessment title:

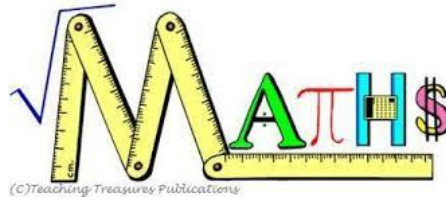
This term, your child will complete an English exam in the Hornpipe Theatre on a collection of short stories from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, which they have been studying in class since September. In this exam, to mirror the new GCSE style questions, students will be asked to analyse an extract from one of the short stories and answer a question based on both the extract and the stories they've studied. They will be marked for reading and writing, which will make up their overall grade.

Topics being covered:

- *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, by Arthur Conan Doyle
- The context of Victorian London
- Analytical essay writing skills
- New vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar

How you can help your child to achieve their best:

Students need to spend time revising key vocabulary they have learnt during their study of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, such as 'deduction' and 'dual-nature'. Your child will be provided with a knowledge organiser for the topic, which you can spend time testing them in the run up to the exam. Students should also be encouraged to re-read key extracts from the short stories, which we've studied in class, at home. You can support by discussing meanings of the extracts and key vocabulary, highlighting in the glossary to support students understanding to the text.



How your child will be assessed:

In Autumn 2 all students in Year 8 will sit two holistic assessment papers. The first is the same for all Year 8 students and is a one hour paper. Students will then either sit a consolidation paper or an extension paper. Both of these exams are 30 minutes.

All the exams cover content covered over the year so far, as well as content from Year 7.

Topics tested include:

- Types of numbers
- Prime numbers and indices
- Prime factorisation
- Use of Venn diagrams and LCM and HCF
- Addition and subtraction of fractions
- Order of operations
- Order and calculate with negative numbers
- Form and solve linear equations
- Linear sequences

How you can help your child revise:

Maths is best revised in regular short sessions. 15 to 20 minutes every night is far more beneficial than several solid hours on the weekend.

Please encourage your child to use hegartymaths.co.uk. This website covers all topics listed here with video explanations and mini-tests.

Please also encourage your child to speak to their maths teacher if they have any questions or concerns.



Science

How your child will be assessed:

Students will sit 3 separate assessments each at 30 mins in length and will be conducted in exam conditions.

Whilst students will be assessed on content covered this term they will also be assessed on cumulative content covered across the course of the previous year (details of topic areas are highlighted below).

Each assessment will assess a variety of skills including working scientifically, apparatus and techniques (practical skills) and maths mastery.

Topics covered this term:

1 – Electricity & magnetism

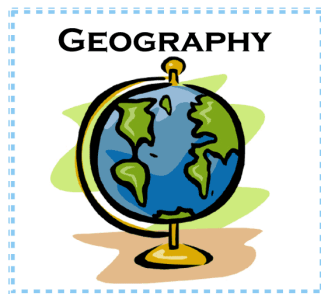
2 – The periodic table

3 – Health & lifestyle – Drugs & digestion

How you can help your child at home:

Please discuss with students at home the content they have covered this year, students should be encouraged to approach their teachers prior to the half term with any areas of concern.

Please check that students have entered any Science homework into their planners and check that this has been completed by the set deadline.



In the Autumn term year 8 Geography students have studied the population dynamics that govern our world and the geography of crime.

The assessment:

The assessment will focus on content we have been studying since September. The assessment will follow the same structure as the new GCSE papers. There will be a series of written questions in which students will be expected to describe, explain and evaluate a variety of geographical concepts.

Your child should revise by:

- Reading through their classwork
- Revising key concepts and geographical processes
- Reading around the topics that we are covering in class

You can help by:

- Testing them on key terms and geographical concepts
- Encouraging them to complete revision at home, even if it is a YouTube video
- Asking them to use geographical terms to describe the world around them



How your child will be assessed:

- Time: 45 minutes
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan
- The assessment question and any sources used must be unseen before the 45 minutes begins

Topics covered:

This assessment will focus on the English Civil War and England under Cromwell. The key topic areas that could be covered are:

- Causes of the war
- The sides that fought in the war
- The Battle of Naseby
- Execution of Charles I
- England under Cromwell
- Cromwell and Ireland
- Is Cromwell a hero or a villain?
-

How you can help your child at home:

You can help your child to revise using the revision materials they create in class. This could be testing them on key words, dates or people.



How your child will be assessed:

Students will have three assessments in Autumn 2 of Year 8: listening, reading and speaking.

The reading and listening assessments will both be in the style of the new GCSE. The speaking assessment will be a 5 minute conversation with the class teacher. There will be some material that has not yet been studied in class, as due to the nature of languages there will always be unknown content on exams. Students should be aware of this and use the strategies they have learnt, such as recognising cognates, to help them face this challenge.

Topics covered:

1. Free time – mobile phones, music, TV
2. Verb conjugation of regular and irregular verbs

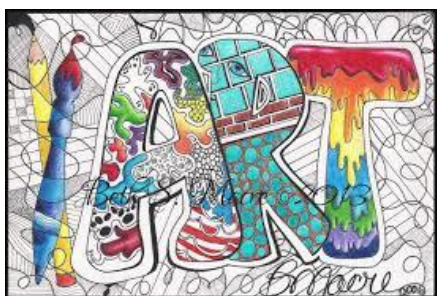
The assessment will also cover topics covered in year 7. Beyond this, there will be some material that has not yet been studied in class, as due to the nature of languages there will always be unknown content on exams. Students should be aware of this and use the strategies they have learnt, such as recognising cognates, to help them face this challenge.

How you can help your child at home:

Please ensure that your child is revising for their weekly vocabulary tests and revisiting vocabulary covered in past tests. Your child will also be given a revision pack prior to their end of term assessments which they should be using to revise at home. Any support in this would be appreciated – you could test your child on words they need to learn without needing to know what they mean as Spanish is written more or less how it is spoken.

Furthermore, please encourage your child to practise Spanish at home by any means. This could be by using the internet to listen to music or the radio, watch TV shows or films or access the BBC Spanish website which has lots of resources <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/>. Thank you!





How your child will be assessed:

During the autumn term art students will study the theme of 'Street Art' and 'Illustration' where they will learn about graffiti, stencil design, typography and characterisation. Students will draw from direct observation as well as from their imagination when creating personal, informed and meaningful final pieces whilst making artist connections to local artists like My Dog Sighs. Classwork is assessed every three weeks, giving students three lessons to develop and refine a piece of work within their sketchbook. Each task focuses on one of the assessment objectives and all students are taught key skills and techniques to help them develop their knowledge, understanding, ability, confidence and use of materials. The four assessment objectives in Art are based on the AQA GCSE strands. They are contextual studies, use of materials, recording ideas and a final piece. Students' home work is assessed throughout the year based levels of effort. The projects are formally assessed with levels at the end of each term and at the end of the summer term after students have produced their two final pieces.

Areas of study include:

- Direct observational drawing
- Use and application of tone and texture
- The street artist's Banksy and My Dog Sighs.
- Letter design and public art.
- Painting and mark making.

How you can help your child to achieve their best:

- Providing a suitable area for students to complete homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- Ask questions surrounding homework to support understanding.
- Encourage gradual independence, whilst reminding students of the homework times and expectations regarding effort.
- Offer advice and help if needed.
- Praise and encourage your child to help them develop confidence.
- Share discussions regarding the use and importance of art within society, life and careers.
- Contact the art teacher or art department if you have any concerns or questions.



In Autumn 1 we have been studying Music from Indonesia. The students have been discovering names of Gamelan instruments, cultural traditions and how the music is played. They will be required to compose a short piece of Gamelan which will be notated by them in groups. In Autumn 2 the students will be using their voices to explore Music for Special Occasions. Students will look at Christmas carols, hymns, and other celebration music. This unit will be a mixture of singing work and keyboard/xylophone work.

How your child will be assessed:

The assessment will be based on the compositions and performances of their film music and song. They will be assessed on fluency of performance, group work and their answers to the listening questions. This will include an extended answer question and a comparison question to mirror the new GCSE.

Your child should revise by:

- Researching the topics which will be studied.
- Recognising elements of music, including notation.

You can help by:

- Discussing Music for Special Occasions with them using musical vocabulary.
- Discussing your favourite celebration songs/music.



How your child will be assessed:

The assessment for Year 8 will focus upon the use of both drag and drop coding and scripting. It will be focused upon the use of GameMaker and the necessary objects and items required to produce a video game from first principles including the analysis of game content and game design.

Topics covered:

The students' assessment will be based on the work they have been undertaking in class. This includes the following topics:

- Programming – drag and drop block coding
- Objects / Events / Sprites / Actions
- Computer game analysis
- Computer game design

How you can help your child at home:

Wherever possible, your contribution to your child's success is encouraged. There are several ways in which you can do this including:

- Making a suitable, quiet revision space available
- Encourage them to research key areas of computer systems and how the components work
- Encourage them to read around the subject of Computer Science either via the internet or from newspaper articles. The BBC technology homepage is a good example.
- Encourage them to consider the various ways in which ICT and Computer Science is used in society.
- Where possible – allow them to try coding at home via e.g. "Codecademy" or "Scratch" or other freely available tools.

