



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 (12th November – 23rd November). 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.

Y8 A Band

If your English, Maths and Science classes are the subject code followed by A-1, A-2 or A-3 you are in the A band.

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13	14	15	16
P1	P1 Science P1 30m	P1 Spanish Reading 30m/Listening 15m	P1	P1
P2	P2 A2 Art 50m/ A3 Music 50m	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3	P3	P3 A1 Art 50m/A3 Drama 50m	P3
P4 A1 Drama 50m	P4 A1 Music 50m/ A2 Drama 50m	P4 A3 ICT 50m	P4	P4
P5	P5	P5	P5 Science P2 30m	P5
P6 A2 Music 50m/A3 Art 50m	P6	P6 Geography 50m	P6 A1 and A2 ICT 50m	P6
19	20	21	22	23
P1	P1 Science P3 30m	P1 Spanish Writing 30m	P1 Maths P2 50m	P1 PE Theory 30m
P2	P2 A1 RE 45m/A2 Art 50m/ A3 Music 50m	P2	P2	P2
P3 English 1h15m (HPT)	P3	P3	P3 A1 Art 50m/A2 RE 45m/A3 Drama 50m	P3
P4	P4 A1 Music 50m/ A2 Drama 50m	P4	P4	P4 A1 and A2 History 40m
P5	P5 A Band Maths P1 50m	P5	P5	P5
P6 A2 Music 50m/A3 Art 50m	P6	P6 A3 History 40m	P6 A3 RE 45m	P6

Y8 B Band

If your English, Maths and Science classes are the subject code followed by B-1, B-2 or B-3 you are in the B band.

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12	13	14	15	16
P1 B1 Art 50m/ B2 Music 50m/ B3 Drama 50m	P1	P1	P1 B2 ICT 50m	P1
P2 Science P1 30m	P2	P2	P2	P2
P3	P3 B Band Spanish Reading 30m/Listening 15m	P3	P3 B2 and B3 Geography 50m	P3
P4	P4	P4	P4	P4 B3 ICT 50m
P5	P5 B1 Drama 50m	P5 B1 Geography 50m	P5 B1 Music 50m/B3 Art 50m	P5 B1 ICT 50m/ B2 Drama 50m/B3 Music 50m
P6 A2 Music 50m/A3 Art 50m	P6	P6	P6 Science P2 30m	P6
19	20	21	22	23
P1 B1 Art 50m/ B2 Music 50m/ B3 Drama 50m	P1	P1	P1 B3 RE 45m	P1
P2 Science P3 30m	P2	P2	P2	P2
P3 PE Theory 30m	P3 Spanish Writing 30m*	P3 B Band English 1h15m	P3 B1 History 40m	P3
P4	P4	P4	P4 Maths P2 50m	P4 B1 and B2 RE 45m
P5	P5 B1 Drama 50m/B2 Art 50m	P5 B2 and B3 History 40m	P5 B1 Music 50m/B3 Art 50m	P5 B2 Drama 50m/B3 Music 50m
P6	P6 Maths P1 50m	P6	P6	P6



Assessment title:

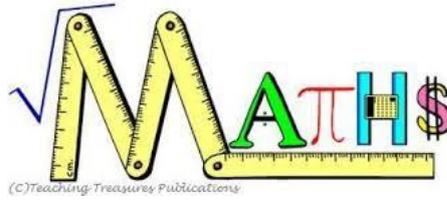
This term, your child will complete an English exam in the Hornpipe Theatre on a collection of short stories from *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, which they have been studying in class since September. In this exam, to mirror the new GCSE style questions, students will be asked to analyse an extract 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 Red-Headed League*, by Arthur Conan Doyle
- *A Scandal in Bohemia*, by Arthur Conan Doyle
- *The Blue Carbuncle*, 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. Both of these exams are 50 minutes long. One assessment is non-calculator, the other is calculator.

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 science (biology, chemistry and physics) 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

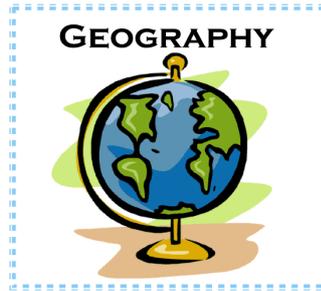
2 – The periodic table

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.



How your child will be assessed:

- Time: 40 minutes
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan
- The assessment questions must be unseen before assessment

Topics covered:

The assessment will focus on the Rivers and UK economy. Key areas that can be covered:

- River processes (erosion, transportation, deposition)
- River features (meanders, waterfalls)
- UK economy (employment sectors, past industry)

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, processes and skills.



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?
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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:

- Skills assessed:
 - Reading: 30 mins
 - Listening: 15 mins
 - Writing: 30 mins
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan
- The assessment questions must be unseen before the assessment

Topics covered:

The assessment will focus on the topic covered in class. Students will be expected to express themselves and understand people talking about their holidays:

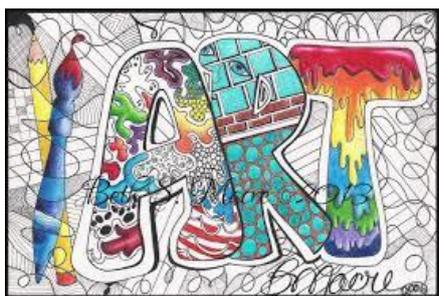
- Where they went, when and how they got there
- What they did on various occasions
- Their opinion about it

Grammar skills will include:

- gender (masculine and feminine) and number (singular and plural)
- the use of the present tense
- the use of the preterit tense (past tense) with regular verbs and the irregular verb "IR" (to go)
- opinion structures

How you can help your child at home:

You can help your child to revise using their vocabulary list provided and studied during this half-term.



How your child will be assessed:

During the autumn term art students will study the theme of 'Illustration' where they will learn about 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 illustrators and designers like Paul Thurlby and Si Scott. 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 illustrators Andrea Joseph, Paul Thurlby and Si Scott.
- 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.



MUSIC

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.



Subject: ICT

How your child will be assessed:

The assessment for Year 8 will focus upon the use of drag and click coding blocks. Students will be using scratch to create a wide variety of interactive media projects – animations, stories, games, and more – and share those projects with peers. Student will be focused upon the use of Scratch and the necessary objects and items required to produce a video game from first principles including the analysis of game content and game design. Through scratch students will improve upon their logic thinking and broaden their creative skills.



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 click block coding
- Objects / Events / Sprites / Actions
- Computer game analysis
- Computer game design

Length of test:

1 55 mark test – 50 mins

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.

