



Ark Charter
Academy

Assessment Point 2

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 (18th March-22nd March). 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.

Assessment weeks 18th March-22nd March

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

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
18	19	20	21	22
Tut	Tut	Tut	Tut	Tut
P1	P1	P1	P1 8A Band Spanish 40m 8B3 RE 30m	P1 8B Band Spanish 40m
P2 8A Band Maths 40m	P2	P2	P2 8A2 RE 30m	P2
P3	P3 8A3 RE 30m	P3	P3 8B1 History 30m 8B2 Geography 30m 8B3 Geography 30m	P3
P4	P4	P4 8A1 RE 30m	P4	P4 8A1 History 30m 8A2 History 30m 8A3 Geography 30m 8B1 RE 30m 8B2 RE 30m
P5	P5	P5 8B1 Geography 30m 8B2 History 30m 8B3 History 30m	P5	P5
P6 8B Band Maths 40m	P6 8A English 1h15m**	P6 8A1 Geography 30m 8A2 Geography 30m 8B band English 1h15m**	P6 8A3 History 30m	P6

** Please be aware that this assessment will finish after 3.15pm. We anticipate that it would finish around 3.45pm dependent on the time taken for students to arrive to class after transition.

Changes to Assessment Point 2 for 2018-19

This year the Ark network of schools have changed their assessment cycle and only Year 11 and students in Ark sixth forms will be sitting formal assessments in all subjects in the Spring term.

For students in year 8 teachers will be asked to report whether each student is currently exceeding, meeting or below expectations in each subject. In some subjects, such as English, students will sit a formal assessment to inform teacher judgements. In other subjects, such as Science, teachers will base their judgements on the continuous assessments due to the number and regularity of different formative assessments completed throughout the term,

More information regarding the assessments in each subject is listed in the following pages.

Will we still receive an interim report?

Yes, you will receive a report which will inform you of how your child is progressing in relation to expectations and also their ATL grade. You will receive a further report in the summer term which will inform you of the grade your child achieved in their end of year assessments.



Assessment title:

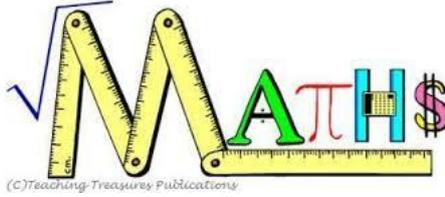
This term, your child will complete an English exam in the Hornpipe Theatre on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, which they have been studying in class since the start of the Spring term. In this exam, to mirror the new GCSE style questions, students will be asked to analyse an extract from the play and answer a question based on both the extract and the play as a whole. They will be marked for reading and writing, which will make up their overall grade.

Topics being covered:

- *The Tempest*, by William Shakespeare
- The context of the Elizabethan Era
- 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 terms and vocabulary that they have learnt during their study of *The Tempest*, such as 'colonialism' and 'imperialism'. Your child will be provided with a knowledge organiser for the topic, which you can spend time testing them on in the run up to the exam. Students should also be encouraged to re-read key extracts from the play, 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 Spring 2 all students in Year 8 will sit two holistic assessment papers. The assessment will be 40 marks and for 40 minutes

The exam covers content covered over the year.

Topics tested include:

- Primes and factorising
- Positive and negative numbers
- Adding and subtracting fractions
- Sequences
- Expressions and equations
- Constructions
- Angles
- Length and area
- Percentage change
- Ratio and rates
- Speed, distance and time

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 in year 8:

Students will cover separate science (biology, chemistry & physics) and sit continuous assessments across the spring term. These will cover a sequence of mastery quizzes, teacher assessed tasks and end of topic tests. Students will therefore not sit a set of mock assessments in the spring term.

Continuous assessment is an ongoing and regular assessment of the students learning performance in relation to the topic students are covering – this is accompanied by regular feedback on which students and teachers can address misconceptions.

In the summer term students will be assessed on content covered in autumn, spring and summer.

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

Autumn topics covered:

- 1 – Health & lifestyle**
- 2 – Periodic table**
- 3 – Electricity & magnetism**

Spring topics covered:

- 1 – Separation techniques**
- 2 – Ecosystem processes**
- 3 – Reactions of metals**
- 4 - Energy**

Summer topics covered:

1 – Adaptation & inheritance

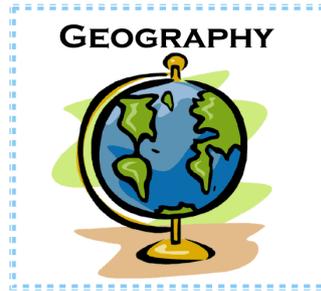
2 – Motion and pressure

3 – Earth and its atmosphere

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 end of topic assessments which are sat fortnightly 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.



Students in Year 8 started the year by studying Rivers and then the UK economy. Students are currently studying Coasts.

The Assessment

The assessment for Year 8 is a 40 minute written paper that covers the range of topics that students have studied since September.

Your child should revise by:

- Reading through their classwork
- Revising key concepts and important geographical concepts
- Read around the topics that we are covering in the classroom. They may find useful information on BBC Bitesize.

You can help by:

- Testing them on key concepts/words and geographical concepts
- Encouraging them to complete revision at home
- Asking them to use geographical terms to describe the world around them



How your child will be assessed:

- Time: 35 minutes on four questions.
- There will be two questions on interpretations and two covering the consequences of key events.
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan

Topics covered:

- The British Empire
- The Slave Trade
- The Industrial Revolution
- The causes of the French Revolution

How you can help your child at home:

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



How your child will be assessed:

- Skills assessed:
 - Listening: 20 mins
 - Reading and translation: 20 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

Sets 1 and 2

Topics covered:

The assessment will focus on the topic covered in class. Students will be expected to understand people talking about food and drink:

- Usual meals habits and opinion about food
- Ordering food and drinks in a restaurant
- What people ate and drink
- Things that people are going to buy

Grammar skills will include:

- the use of the present tense
- the use of the preterit tense (past tense) with regular verbs
- the use of the near future tense
- 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.

Year 8A3 Spanish (Mrs Fowles's group)

Topics covered:

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

- name, age, birthday
- pets
- brothers and sisters
- their personality

Grammar skills will include:

- gender (masculine and feminine) and number (singular and plural)
- the use of "my"
- phonics and pronunciation
- adjective agreement
- opinion structures (likes and dislikes)

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.

Year 8B3 Spanish (Miss Elkins's group)**Topics covered:**

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

- What they study
- Their opinion about school subjects and reasons
- Description of their school and school facilities
- Their activities at break and lunch times

Grammar skills will include:

- gender (masculine and feminine) and number (singular and plural)
- adjective agreement
- extending sentences
- opinion structures (likes and dislikes)



How your child will be assessed:

- Time: 30 minute paper (5 questions ranging from 2 marks- 15)
- Carried out in class
- Silent and independent work, without use of books, notes or plan
- The assessment question used must be unseen before the assessment begins

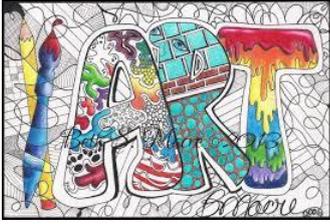
Topics covered:

Religion and prejudice: Students have studied how prejudice has inspired various people to stand up for their beliefs. They studied Martin Luther King, Gandhi and Malcolm X.

Religion and poverty: Students have studied how poverty impacts society. How various religions believe we can help people in poverty. Students have looked at how religious charities have been established to help fight poverty.

How you can help your child at home:

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



How your child will be assessed:

During the spring term art students will develop the theme of 'Illustration' by producing their own illustrated and illuminated letter as well as designing and making a three dimensional letter out of card. Students will research and adopt the techniques of the sculptor Robert Indiana as well as exploring sign writing and typography.

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:

- Composition designs for a personal letter design.
- Ability to adopt and explore the techniques and materials of other artists as well refine their own.
- The sculptor Robert Indiana.
- Graphic and three dimensional design.
- Card construction and mixed media collage.

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 Spring 1 and 2 students will study Music from Africa. The students have been discovering names of African instruments, cultural traditions and how the music is played. They will be required to compose a short piece of music which is influenced by African styles we have studied. Students will look at polyrhythm, call and response, cyclic rhythms, pentatonic scales, and Djembe drum techniques. This unit will be a mixture of drumming work and keyboard work.

How your child will be assessed:

The assessment will be based on the compositions and performances. 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 from Africa with them using musical vocabulary.
- Discussing your favourite celebration songs/music.

