

DWO/SWI/TJA

13 October 2020



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Parent/Carer,

Parent/Carer information: Year 7, 8 and 9 standardised assessments

As part of a continuous process to improve the outcomes for all learners at Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College, the assessment strategy has been updated. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will now take part in standardised assessments for both English and Mathematics.

The first English and Mathematics standardised assessments will take place between Monday 12 October and Friday 27 November. The English assessment is 1 hour and 15 minutes and the Mathematics assessment is 1 hour - your child's normal access arrangements will be applied where appropriate (i.e. extra time).

Both the English and Mathematics standardised assessments cover a broad range of skills and prior knowledge. Some of the content covered may not have been taught this term. This makes it difficult to give a clear direction on revision for such standardised assessments. Although this may seem unusual, it does mitigate the potential subconscious actions of 'teaching to the test'. It is also a more accurate reflection of long term learning; providing a measure of a learner's long term memory rather than simply reassuring learners and stakeholders with a short term performance that some assessments can provide.

These type of standardised assessments are ideal preparation for reformed GCSEs and courses – they cover a broad spectrum of the subject domain and they truly assess long term memory and learning. The summative and formative nature of these assessments means that not only can we measure what is being learnt but we can also make inferences that are formative. The formative aspect enables us to plan the future curriculum for our young learners – covering both identified gaps in prior knowledge and skills, and indicating where we can potentially enhance skills and knowledge that some learners already possess that wouldn't ordinarily be expected.

The information regarding the outcome of these standardised assessments will be released to you week commencing 18 January 2021. The second round of these assessments will take place in May 2021 followed by the second annual report home.

Yours sincerely

D Wobbaka

Mr D Wobbaka
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Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator

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