

11th October 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to explain how and when we will be assessing KS4 students at Skinners' Academy.

KS4 Assessment

At Skinners' Academy, we see assessment as an integral part of teaching and learning, and it is inextricably linked to our curriculum.

We use two broad overarching forms of assessment:

- day-to-day in-school formative assessment,
- in-school summative assessment and

Formative assessment of students' knowledge and understanding permeates through all of our day-to-day teaching. Some of our approaches for effective formative assessment include:

- Whole Class feedback
- Regular questioning using a variety of evidence-based strategies
- Live marking

In-school summative assessment takes place at the end of a unit of work or at the end of a term/year. It is undertaken as a formal exam conducted in examination conditions. The assessment measures students' knowledge, understanding and skills for topics studied within a unit of work or topics across a term/year. Students are given opportunities to revise in preparation for the assessment. The assessments are designed to reflect the assessment objectives of GCSEs.

At Skinners' Academy there are two summative assessment points in Y11:

- Week commencing 21/11/2022
- Week commencing 27/02/2023

Summative assessments are marked with reference to GCSE success criteria and are standardised against the success criteria for the assessment. After each assessment point, areas of underperformance will be identified with a view to implementing suitable intervention strategies for such subjects. Parents may be contacted to discuss any such intervention strategies and, in particular, how they can best support their son or daughter in this regard.

Parents wishing to know more about assessment and the approaches used at Skinners' Academy should contact Rachael Adediran, Vice Principal for Key Stage Four.

Revision weeks

To support students with preparing effectively for summative assessments we have a built in a revision week prior to assessment. During revision week, students will be taught how to revise in their respective subject

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areas and will be introduced to evidence-based revision techniques such as retrieval practice. Students will also be provided with revision resources that summarise all the content for the forthcoming assessment. Students will be set revision as homework for the whole week.

Yours Sincerely,

Rachael Adediran
Vice Principal for Key Stage Four

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