



**Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies**

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Respect - Equality - Ambition - Community - Hard Work & Determination



24th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Year 9 End of Year assessments 12<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

This Friday we will launch the Year 9 end of year assessment process to your child. These assessments will take place in English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Religious Studies and Spanish between 12<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May. Your child will come home on Friday with a support booklet that includes their exam timetable, revision strategies and a support page from each subject.

Students will be sitting their assessments for English, Maths and Science in the Roy Moore sports hall. This will mirror the exam process in Year 11, so students get used to invigilators, the expectations and getting 'exam ready'. By year 11, this process is then automatic, and students can focus on excelling in their exam. The remaining subjects will be sat in the classroom in normal lesson time. Each subject has outlined a consistent number of revision lesson(s) prior to each exam to ensure parity for all classes. Year 9 excelled in their mid-year exams and impressed everyone at the Academies. I am looking forward to the same again!

These exams are different to the previous Rank Order Assessments (ROAs) your child has sat at Avonbourne. Whilst in Key Stage 3 we use an overall rank where all subject results are combined to place students into a stream, at Key Stage 4 students are placed into attainment-related sets in their core subjects (English, Maths and Science). The results of these end of year assessments will be used to place students into attainment-related sets at the beginning of Year 10, meaning that students may be in different sets for different subjects. These are designed to ensure your child makes maximum progress and will be re-assessed throughout Years 10 and 11. Students are not generally taught in attainment-related sets in non-core subjects at Key Stage 4, unless there are multiple classes of the same subject in the same block.

We have created a blended approach to homework for Year 9 during the exam period. This means your child will have some compulsory homework to support revision, but a reduced amount to normal. This means that they have built into their homework additional revision time where they have autonomy over what to study and when.

If your child misses an assessment due to illness, there will be a catch-up opportunity in the next lesson they are back in school. These will be done in departments, which means that the next lesson in that subject will be an opportunity for them to complete the assessment.

Results will be shared through a report and celebration afternoon towards the end of June and the new classes will take place from September.

### **Wrap-around support**

Every adult at the Academies will work with your child to be successful and help bring out the best in them. They have a dedicated tutor, Head of Year, two Pastoral Leads, a vast array of subject teachers, and Head of Departments. We also implement exam access arrangements for those that qualify for extra time and readers in their core exams. If you have any questions or your child requires further support, please contact us at [classof2029@avonbourneacademy.org.uk](mailto:classof2029@avonbourneacademy.org.uk)

**Principal:** Michelle Dyer

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I will write to you again when the results are released to give you more details of the celebration afternoon and the key messages that we will be giving to students to motivate them for the remainder of the academic year.

Yours sincerely,

**Tom Kidman**  
**Assistant Principal**

### How can you support with assessments at home?

- 100% attendance – a student who is in school and learning will have access to the whole curriculum and there will not be gaps in their knowledge.
- Homework completion – homework consolidates the knowledge and understanding that has taken place in lessons, allowing students to practice, independently, the skills that are needed for success.
- Discuss the support pack with your child – this document not only contains the assessment timetable but details the topics and resources needed to be successful in the assessments. Use these as a guide to help revisit topics and use as a checklist to be prepared.
- Support your child to make (and stick to!) a revision timetable

### What support do we provide?

- Clear information about the assessment process
- Subject support pages
- In-lesson revision sessions before the assessments
- Teach students how to revise and prepare for assessments outside of class time
- Revision videos and materials to be accessed outside of class time
- A dedicated pastoral, tutor and staff team that want to support your child to be successful and have a positive experience
- Explains to students the normal feeling of 'exam stress' and where to seek further support if required
- An afternoon celebration event focusing on progress that the children have made

### How can my child prepare for the assessments?

- Attend school and work hard in lessons
- Carefully read through the subject support pages in the support booklet
- Watch any pre-recorded revision videos and utilise the revision materials provided
- Use knowledge organisers and complete Seneca assignments