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Bolingbroke
Academy

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Wednesday 27th May 2020

Dear parent/carer,

This letter is a guide in how to best support your child in the final term of this academic year. We have been so proud of how well our Year 8 pupils have continued to engage with distance learning and we thank you for helping them to follow their routine, complete their work and act on their feedback.

Thank you also for submitting your child's preferences for their subjects to study in Year 9. We are currently formulating the timetable and will share with you their final subject list as soon as possible. It is our aim that we accommodate pupils first and second choices.

Our internal data shows that our Year 8 pupils are attending their lessons, therefore we feel it is appropriate to assess pupils in the Summer term and produce reports which share your child's progress with you. We have designed an assessment cycle that we feel is appropriate for the challenges posed by learning at home. However, it is important that we share that our decision to assess and report is based on a trust that all parents and pupils will conduct the tests honestly. Our pupils must submit their own work, without the assistance of those around them, or the internet – this is the only way that your child will gain accurate feedback and make progress.

Assessment Weeks – Monday 15th – Friday 26th June (Timetable at the end of this letter)

- Year 8 pupils will complete their NGRT (reading test) using a code which we will supply to your email by the 8th of June. The NGRT provides a national benchmark of a pupil's reading age as it is taken by over 11,700 students.
- Pupils will then complete a short test in each subject via MS Forms, MS Teams, Hegarty or Education Perfect, which will be based on knowledge acquired across the year or as stipulated by their teacher.
- This test should take approximately one hour to complete, and we would appreciate you discussing each assignment with your child to ensure they do not spend more than the allocated time.
- Pupils will be notified of the content of their assessment by their subject teachers and set pre-work to help guide revision.
- Pupils will continue with their normal lessons during their assessment weeks. In most subjects, pupils will not be expected to complete their test in their lesson. Instead they will submit their work before the end of the day. This is because we do not want to put undue pressure on pupils whom we know may struggle. Equally, we know that pupils may be sharing devices with siblings and therefore may require more flexibility as to when they can access their assessment.

Reports

These assessments will form part of pupil's final progress marker at the end of the year. Their subject teacher may also take into consideration their performance in other key pieces of work submitted in Spring or Summer to ensure the final judgment is balanced.

As we know that our pupils test conditions will be variable we are not going to produce a grade from 1-9 but instead a comment explaining if pupils are 'above, at or below' their target grade. We feel reporting this information on academic progress is important and will help teachers to plan which areas of the curriculum they may need to review in September.

Parent Information Evening and Preferences - Monday 29th June (17.00 – 18.00)

We will be hosting another video presentation for Year 8 parents via Microsoft Teams to provide more details about pupil learning in September. A link to join this event will be sent after half term. This event will also provide you with more detailed information into the report your child will receive.

Ms Namatovu will share at this event the progress of pupils through the mini-EPQ before their final presentations begin. We are very proud of the progress and maturity they have shown in this project and are looking forward to hearing them share what their findings.

Virtual Sport Week – WC 9th July

Pupils are encouraged to take part in the virtual sports week. Pupils will be able to complete challenges around the home to contribute to a House Competition. Ms Bridges will be sending out more information on this exciting event next half term.

Graduation Celebration – Friday 17th July (10 – 11am)

We are hosting a virtual graduation celebration assembly where Year 8 will come together as a year group to celebrate the success they have achieved this year. You are also invited to attend this celebration. Please await your invite which will be sent in June via Bolpost.

Should you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, or any feedback regarding our distance learning provision, please do not hesitate to contact me via email. Please also know that we are doing our utmost to support families during this difficult time and would appreciate you sharing with us if you feel we could assist you further in any way.

I wish you a safe and healthy half term,

Kind regards,

Ms J Kennedy
Assistant Principal KS3
Pupil Personal Development Lead
j.kennedy@arkbolingbrokeacademy.org

Y8 Assessment and Key Events Timetable

Week	WC	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	1st June					
2	8th June					
3	15th June	NGRT			Drama 11.30am - 12.30pm English Quiz	Art 12 - 1pm Music 2-3pm
4	22nd June	PE	English	Science	Maths and Humanities	MFL
5	29th June	Mini EPQ Presentations Parent Info Evening 5-6pm				
6	6th July	Mini EPQ Presentations Virtual Sport Week				
7	13th July	Mini EPQ Pupil Reflection	Reports Published (Latest Date)			Graduation 10-11am