



JSN/ JBI
20 September 2023

Dear Blaise Families,

I am writing to you to let you know about what we are teaching students in this unit and our assessment plan.

Curriculum

You can find our curriculum summaries attached to this email and also information by clicking on the video links below.. These lay out what your children will learn in each subject. There is one for KS3, one for KS4 and one for the Resource Base. The curriculum in each subject area is regularly reviewed to ensure that what we offer is knowledge-rich, ambitious and designed to give students the best possible chance of climbing their own personal mountains to the very best universities in the country or careers of their choosing. The key knowledge in our curriculum is set up in our knowledge organisers. We encourage all parents to engage with these at home to support the learning taking place in lessons.

Assessment

We continually assess students' learning; it is embedded into all of our lessons. We have a range of strategies that teachers use which include questioning, mini-whiteboards, low-stakes quizzing and live marking. Live marking takes place when students are completing independent work, teachers provide live feedback which students action immediately. All of these processes provide teachers with the data they need in order to adapt their teaching to meet the needs of the children. We also use assessments at the end of the unit to give us a better insight into how students are performing in comparison to their peers. You can find more information about these summative assessments on the following page.

If you have any concerns or questions about anything in this letter, please do get in touch with me via email sheltonj@blaisehighschool.co.uk. You can find more information about the curriculum and our assessment model on the school website.

Yours faithfully,

Josie Shelton
Deputy Headteacher



	Assessment Window	Reports Home	Assessment	Description	How to support at home
KS3	29/11/23 - 8/12/23	15/12/23	Knowledge organiser assessments	Knowledge organiser assessments are sat in exam conditions in classrooms, in the last three weeks of every unit. We then rank our students according to attainment. This not only fosters healthy competition and aspiration, but it also enables setting to happen effectively. In order to make good progress in lessons, the students must know the foundational knowledge in the knowledge organisers well. It is constantly used and referenced in lessons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending school every day • Self-quizzing homework using the knowledge in students' knowledge organiser. Use the 'look, cover, write, check' method. Video here • Consistently completing Sparx homework.
Year 10	29/11/23 - 8/12/23	5/1/23	In-class end of unit exams	<p>In-class end of unit exams are sat in exam conditions in classrooms, in the last three weeks of unit one and unit two. These exams consist of past exam questions, where possible, which reflect what students have recently been learning. This prepares them for public examinations, and ensures we have comprehensive data upon which we can act to ensure every child is given the stretch and challenge they need. The grades which they receive are indicators of progress, rather than predictions of final grades.</p> <p>The following subjects will not complete in-class exams and will instead be given a current working grade: Sport, Catering, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Media, Music and Drama.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending school every day • Self-quizzing homework using the knowledge in students' knowledge organiser. Use the 'look, cover, write, check' method. Video here • Consistently completing Sparx homework. • Using the assessment manifest to target revision (handed out on the 10/11/23)
Year 11	6/11/23 - 17/11/23	15/12/23	Mock Exams	Mock exams are sat in exam conditions in our exam locations. Students will be given their exam timetables they must follow. Mock exams are either full or shortened past exam papers. This prepares them for public examinations and gives both teachers and students valuable information on areas to improve before the summer exam series. Students post - 16 applications will be based on these grades.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending school every day • Self-quizzing homework using the knowledge in students' knowledge organiser. Use the 'look, cover, write, check' method. Video here • Consistently completing all subject homework. There is one piece each evening. • Using the assessment manifest to target revision (handed out on the 16/10/23)