



MSG/JBW
 21 November 2023

Dear Blaise Families,

This letter explains the importance of the knowledge organisers and how your child will be assessed and ranked as a result of their attainment at the end of Unit 1, in preparation for Unit 2 which begins in January. There is a video to accompany this letter [here](#) for more information.

Why are knowledge organisers important?

The knowledge in the knowledge organisers is the backbone of our curriculum. It is carefully selected based on what students are learning in lessons during Unit 1. Knowledge is ‘sticky’ which means the more we know the easier it is for us to learn, that is why understanding this knowledge is so important for progress in lessons. The pieces of knowledge are carefully selected to:


- underpin the key concepts throughout the curriculum
- provide crucial prior knowledge for lessons
- allow students to make links between existing topics and new topics

How are students assessed?

Assessments will be held from the **27th November to the 8th December 2023**. Students will have one assessment lesson per subject containing between 10 and 50 words. Students will be asked to complete the piece of knowledge, by writing the correct piece of information for a definition. These are all taken from the Unit 1 Knowledge Organiser. There is an example below of what an assessment will look like.

| | Piece of information | Definition | Correct? |
|---|----------------------|--|----------|
| 1 | | How quickly speed increases or decreases | |
| 2 | | Maximum displacement from the middle of a wave | |
| 3 | | State change from a liquid to a gas using energy | |
| 4 | | The female part of a flower | |
| 5 | | Smallest functional unit of a living organism | |

For Maths questions students will be asked to work out the answer. There is an example below.

| | Question | Options | Correct? |
|---|--|--|----------|
| 1 |  What fraction of the shape is yellow? | A - $\frac{1}{4}$ B - $\frac{1}{5}$ C - $\frac{1}{3}$ D - $\frac{4}{5}$ | |



How can students prepare?

Students have been working hard learning the key knowledge in their Knowledge Organisers as part of their Self-Quizzing homework, using the process of look, cover, write and check. From today, until the 8th December, students can choose which subject they wish to self-quiz on each night. This is to ensure that they are fully prepared for the upcoming assessments. They may also wish to complete additional pages of self-quizzing to ensure that they confidently know the key words and vocabulary in their Knowledge Organisers. Please watch this video [here](#) which shows how to self-quiz effectively.

What if my child is absent?

We will aim to run catch up opportunities for exceptional circumstances during the assessment window, however please be aware that after 8th December, no more assessments can take place. This is to allow the reports to be finalised. If there are unavoidable situations that means your child misses school during this period please email me so we can attempt to arrange assessments. However, we cannot promise that every assessment will be caught up. If a teacher is absent we will endeavour to run the assessment as normal with a different teacher.

When is each assessment?

Your child has received an assessment timetable outlining when their assessments will be. You will also find a copy on our [website](#), as well as an electronic version of the knowledge organisers. You can find the relevant group on your child's timetable. There is a link [here](#) which includes the common FAQs regarding our assessment process. You will also find an example of what the assessments look like.

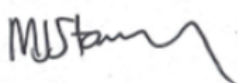
When do we receive the results?

On 15th December, your child's Unit 1 Assessment Report will be shared on the MCAS app. They will also receive a printed report to bring home. This will show how well your child has performed in each subject. The rank order position shows your child's position in the year group for that subject. For example, if they are 1/180 in English, they achieved the highest percentage on their assessment in that subject. To calculate each child's overall position, we work out the average percentage of all assessments, English and Maths are given double weighting. This mirrors how GCSE results are calculated. We use this data to decide which class your child moves to at the start of Unit 2. If you haven't signed up for the MCAS app, please find information [here](#) on our website. If you require further support, please email info@blaisehighschool.co.uk

After Christmas, all students return to school on 4th January. They will receive a new timetable with their new group and teachers. Groups are B,L,A,I,S and E.

If you have any further question, please do not hesitate to contact me by email using standingm@blaisehighschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Standing
Assistant Headteacher