



Blaise High School
Station Road
Henbury
Bristol
BS10 7QH

DWS/JBW
5 November 2024

Dear Blaise families,

This letter is about changes to our assessment system for Y7-9 students.

If it is useful, please see a video summary of the letter [here](#).

For the past few years at Blaise, students have sat knowledge organiser assessments at the end of each Unit (3 times per year), where they would recall between 20 and 50 core pieces of knowledge from within the knowledge organiser for each subject.

Their average percentage score across all assessments would then be calculated, with each student assigned a rank based on this score. The rank then determined their class for the next unit.

This system has done fantastic things for the school. In particular, it has helped to create a culture of Aspiration within our student body: children know that when they attend school (and see these pieces of core knowledge in lessons), complete their self-quizzing homework with Integrity 6 times per week (where they will revise all of the key knowledge that could be in their assessments), and revise for their assessments using their knowledge organisers, they give themselves a brilliant chance of success.

This year, we are evolving our Y7-9 assessment systems, but will work to ensure that all of these positives are retained. It is vital that students continue to know that when they come to our school and work hard, the ceiling on what they can achieve is limitless.

End of Unit Multiple Choice Question assessments:

This year and beyond, students will be completing **multiple choice question assessments** at the end of each Unit, instead of knowledge organiser assessments.

Multiple choice questions are questions with multiple possible answers that students select from. We already use these questions in our lessons, because they have the power to tell us exactly what students do and don't understand about what they have been taught. Using them in our assessments will give students the chance to show us how well they have understood their learning over the past Unit, and will give teachers rich data about what feedback students and classes need next to really progress.

At the end of each Unit, every student will sit a 30-minute exam for each subject. Exams will all have the same structure: 10 questions testing knowledge from the Knowledge Organiser (exactly like the assessments in previous years), and 20 multiple choice questions that will test knowledge from across the Unit.

Once students have completed multiple choice question assessments for each subject, we will then rank and regroup students in the same way as previously.

These end of Unit assessments really matter. Our students want to achieve the highest possible rank they can, and therefore be in the highest possible set they can. Because of this, we will always ensure that they are well prepared for their assessments. There are 4 main ways in which this will happen:

- Students will see multiple choice questions in their lessons. Achieving well in assessments begins with being in lessons every single day

Nat Nabarro, Headteacher

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- The multiple choice questions will all build on the same knowledge that is in the knowledge organisers, so self-quizzing with Integrity 6 times each week for homework will allow students to be successful in assessments
- Before each assessment, every subject will teach Curriculum Review lessons, where teachers will re-teach key aspects of the curriculum that students need to focus on for their assessments. Being in these lessons will allow students to be successful in their assessments
- Each student will also be given a Revision Resource before assessments begin. This is a booklet that will contain key revision questions for each subject – if students revise for their assessments using both their knowledge organisers and their revision resource booklets, they will have a great chance of success

The Unit 1 multiple choice question assessments begin on **Monday 25th November**. I will write to you next week with specific details about these assessments, including further information about the Unit 1 revision resource booklets that students will receive in advance of the assessments.

Thank you in advance for all of your support around assessments throughout this year: every assessment is an opportunity for every child to have a positive experience of showing their learning off under pressure, ready for their KS4 exams in Year 11. We know that our families give brilliant support in helping students to prepare well for these assessments, and don't underestimate how much of an effort this is on your part.

Weekly Knowledge Organiser quizzes

As well as changing our end of Unit assessment system, we are also introducing a weekly knowledge organiser quiz each Friday during tutor time.

Our students work incredibly hard on their self-quizzing homework 6 times each week, and until now they have had to wait until the end of each Unit to show us how much of that knowledge they had really understood. We think it right that we assess students more regularly on this knowledge, allowing us to intervene over time where students need our support to self-quiz effectively.

Starting this Friday, students will sit a short assessment during tutor time every Friday, testing 2 random questions from each set of knowledge that they have been self-quizzing over the previous week.

These assessments don't impact a student's ranking or group, they simply provide a regular opportunity for each student to test what they have learnt in the previous week, and for us to celebrate the successes that students are having.

If you have any questions about the end of Unit multiple choice question assessments or weekly knowledge organiser quizzes, please email info@blaisehighschool.co.uk and an appropriate member of staff will respond to your request.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Williams
Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum

Nat Nabarro, Headteacher

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