



Year 9 End of Year Assessments

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to clarify Beaconsfield High School's approach to end of year assessments. All schools approach this in very different ways, and here at BHS we have decided the following arrangements are best for our students.

For Year 9 students, we will run end of year exams for four days, from Monday 13th April to Friday 17th April. The exams will be held in the Sports Hall under GCSE examination conditions to allow students this experience prior to their GCSE exams in 2028. Our students with access arrangements will be informed as to where their exams will take place.

During this exam period, students will follow a modified schedule, remaining in their allocated classrooms when not taking exams. These rooms will serve as silent study areas, supervised to facilitate focused revision. Each department will arrange to assess their students in the way best suited to their curriculum. Some subjects will assess their practical skills rather than give students an exam style assessment.

The results of these assessments will be reported to parents as part of the 'Working At Grade' (WAG) in the Gradecard published at the end of the summer term. I can assure you that expectations for any assessments will be clearly communicated to your child, and you can support them by asking them about their revision. Please find attached your child's assessment timetable that provides further details on the assessments.

In summary:

The end of year exams will take place over four days in the Sports Hall Monday 13th April to Friday 17th April.

During this week students will be off timetable and when not in an exam they will stay in their allocated classroom for silent study which will be supervised.

Students must bring study materials and equipment to allow them to revise independently in silence in the study periods.

Some subjects will assess students' practical skills rather than give students an exam style assessment.

Students will only be assessed on work they have already been taught.

Teachers will give your child guidance on what to revise.

We recognise that assessments and examinations can bring a degree of pressure, even within a supportive school environment. Our aim is not to add to that pressure, but to ensure that students feel prepared, capable and well supported. Strong wellbeing and emotional resilience are essential foundations for academic success, particularly as students begin to encounter more formal assessment experiences.

All Year 9 students have taken part, or will shortly take part, in a dedicated study skills session through PSHE. In addition, subject teachers are allocating lesson time to explicitly teach revision techniques that are appropriate to their disciplines. This allows students to practise strategies within lessons and understand how different approaches can be effective in different subjects.

We do not expect students to have mastered revision at this stage. Year 9 is an important time for experimentation and skill-building. Over the next two years, students will continue to refine their approach, learning which techniques work best for them so that, by the time they reach their external examinations, they are confident, organised and well prepared.

We have discussed the process of internal examinations in depth. We believe that the move from classroom-based assessment in Year 7 and 8 to invigilated end of year exams in Year 9 is the best way to prepare students gradually for the expectations at Key Stage 4.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Lucy Barker
Head of Learning, Year 9