



Wednesday 11 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that your child has had a positive first week at the High School and has settled in well. My name is Ceri George, and I am the Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for our Formal Curriculum and Assessment.

I am writing to give you some information about how we will be finding out more about your child's knowledge and skills over the next few weeks, so that we can best support them in their learning and progress.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

How we build an accurate picture of your child's knowledge and skills

At Wilmslow High School, our aim is for all our students to experience meaningful success in the classroom. To achieve this, it is important that we know our students' learning well so that we can close any learning gaps and build on learning strengths.

For this reason, our Year 7 students will sit baseline assessments in Reading, English, Maths and Science over the next few weeks. This will really help us to start building an accurate picture of your child's knowledge and skills in these areas, so we can tailor our curriculum, teaching and learning to best match their needs.

There is no revision or preparation to do for these assessments and information from them will be shared with you in the Year 7 Expectations Evening on Tuesday 8 October.

Please do emphasise to your child that these assessments are part of a **positive** process of getting to know their learning, and that they are intended to help their teachers to plan for their learning as effectively as possible.

What will this look like?

Reading

All students will complete an NGRT reading assessment during the fortnight beginning 16 September. This is an online assessment of students' reading skills, which will help all of your child's teachers to understand their reading strengths and any areas where we can provide support. It will also help us to identify any students who may need some further additional reading support through our Reading programme. You can find out more about our Reading programme at the Year 7 Expectations Evening on Tuesday 8 October.

English

In English, students will complete a baseline vocabulary test and this will take place in one of their English lessons this week. They will also complete a Sparx Reader Test in an English lesson over the next few weeks. This is to prepare for their use of Sparx Reader, which is an online platform that our students use for independent reading practice at home. The Sparx Reader Test will help us to set reading books via Sparx Reader that are appropriate to your child's reading level.

Maths

In Maths, students will complete a written assessment in class during the week beginning 23 September. This will assess their knowledge and skills from Key Stage 2. The information from this assessment will be used, along with information from your child's primary school, to inform our grouping in Maths.

Grouping in Maths

In Maths, it is important that all students are building fluency and confidence, and that their knowledge is secure before moving onto new content. To support this, we group our students in three broad bands for Maths. Students are placed in the best group to support their current level of mathematical knowledge and fluency, although movement between groups is fluid with regular assessment points through the year. We will explain more about this in the Year 7 Expectations Evening on Tuesday 8 October. We will also explain how nearly all our other subjects are taught in mixed ability classes.

Science

In Science, students will complete a written assessment in class during the week beginning 23 September. The aim of this assessment is to identify strengths and gaps in knowledge and skills which - from our experience - can vary between different primary schools. Information from this assessment will support your child's teachers in understanding their current level of science knowledge and fluency.

I hope that this information is helpful to you, and we are looking forward to seeing you at our Year 7 Expectations Evening on Tuesday 8 October.

Best wishes

Miss C George

Assistant Headteacher: Formal Curriculum and Assessment