



# Moorside High School

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*

22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, the Year 9 Assessments are taking place between Monday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The full assessment timetable is available on our website, along with a comprehensive revision list to support your son/daughter in their preparation.

Assessment is integral to high quality teaching and learning. It helps us to ensure that teaching is appropriate and that students are making expected or better than expected progress. We appreciate that assessments can be a demanding experience, but we will ensure that students are fully prepared and that they take place in students' usual classrooms with their class teachers so that the assessments are as comfortable as possible. As Year 9 students are now starting to think ahead to their options for GCSEs, these assessments will be a valuable insight into how our students are performing across all their subjects and will help to inform discussions when thinking about this next important step. Please note that the GCSE Options process will be launched in February and students will have plenty of time to talk to their class teachers about possible courses, as well as our Careers Advisor for advice on applications to college and beyond.

Revision really helps students consolidate learning, builds their confidence, and embeds the core knowledge they will need for future success in these subjects. There is no such thing as being 'bad at revision' - it is a skill that needs lots of practice for students to become efficient at it and it takes time – the main thing is to persevere and use the techniques recommended by the subject teachers which are tried and tested, and often also supported by research into memory and retrieval. Revision at home is important, but it is equally important not to over-do-it. We suggest that an average of 90 minutes of revision per night during the couple of weeks before these assessments will be plenty for students to be well-prepared, assuming that they have been working hard in lessons. These 90 minutes of revision should be broken down into 3 periods of 30 minutes, in 3 different subjects. Knowledge Organisers are an ideal tool for revision and practise, these have been provided by subject teachers.

What you can do to support your child:

- Reassure them about the assessments – we all want them to do their best but if they go wrong, it is not the end of the world
- Read through the Year 9 revision list together to understand what is expected of them in each assessment. Encourage them to talk to you about different subjects and topics
- Talk to your child about any subjects they are more worried about and consider creating a little more time for these subjects in their revision plan. Encourage them to speak to their teachers if they are worried or have questions
- Create a revision timetable – aim for 90 minutes per day – this 90 minutes of revision is best completed as 3 x 30 min blocks in 3 different subjects, with a break in between the blocks
- Test your child on what they have learnt by asking them questions based on the content in the Knowledge Organisers

Headteacher: Mrs H Ryles-Dean • 57 Deans Road, Swinton, Manchester, M27 0AP • Telephone: 0161 921 1045 • [www.moorsidehigh.co.uk](http://www.moorsidehigh.co.uk)





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We must stress that we do not want students to get unnecessarily worried about the assessments, and we ask for your support here. Above all else, the assessments are a valuable opportunity for teachers to assess the areas students have grasped well and those where further consolidation may still be required. In the current climate, these assessments will also be particularly useful to help teachers identify any gaps in learning that may have developed recently and help them to address these with students. However, it really is not the end of the world if an assessment does not go as well as expected.

If there are any further queries about how to prepare for individual assessments, please encourage your child to speak to their teachers in class over the next couple of weeks.

Due to the Christmas holidays, the results of these assessments will be communicated with parents in the week commencing 23rd January 2023.

If there are any queries about the assessment process, please do contact the school at [MHSinfo@consilium-at.com](mailto:MHSinfo@consilium-at.com) and we will endeavour to help as best we can.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish your child the best of luck with their assessments and encourage them to speak with subject teachers, their Form Tutor, or Head of Year if they have any worries or questions. Thank you for your continued support

Kind Regards

Mrs Nesfield

Assistant Headteacher – Quality of Education



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