



An Ashmole Trust School

CEO: Mr Tim Sullivan
 Head Teacher: Mr Balbinder Dhinsa
 'Excellence, Aspiration and Care'

13th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Ashmole Academy Assessment Policy

I hope this letter finds you well, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child as we begin another exciting academic year. We look forward to working together to ensure every student has a successful and rewarding experience.

At Ashmole we recognise the importance of fair and consistent assessment to support our students' academic growth. At the heart of our assessment policy is focusing on the needs of each student and the ways in which assessment can best support them to reach their full potential, through offering high quality feedback. Below are the key components of our assessment approach.

Continuous Checking for Understanding:

Checking for understanding remains at the heart of our assessment policy and teaching practice, this may include quizzes, classroom activities and homework which allows teachers to identify any learning gaps or misconceptions early on and adapt teaching accordingly to provide timely support.

Pillar Checks:

Pillar Checks occur throughout the academic year approximately once per half term in each subject and are pieces of work that the teacher will mark and give students detailed feedback on. Pillar Checks allow us to capture and diagnose pupils' progress earlier on in the learning cycle to reduce misconceptions and improve knowledge retention through regular opportunities to record and reflect.

Assessment 1:

Assessment 1 is a longer piece of assessment which takes place towards the start of the academic year in all subjects, evaluating students' attainment at a particular point and diagnosing gaps in knowledge (the grade will be shared with parents/carers) please note the Assessment 1 dates below for the different year groups.

- Year 7 w/c 4th November 2024
- Year 8 w/c 6th January 2025
- Year 9 w/c 4th November 2024
- Year 10 w/c 14th October 2024
- Year 11 Assessment Point 1 will be in the form of their Mock Assessments w/c 9th December 2024

Assessment 2, Synoptic Assessment:

Assessment 2, Synoptic Assessment will be completed towards the end of the academic year in all subjects which evaluates pupils' progress and achievement whilst diagnosing gaps in knowledge to be addressed (the grade will be shared with parents/carers) please note the Assessment 2, Synoptic Assessment dates below for the different year groups:

- Year 7 w/c 12th May 2025
- Year 8 w/c 21st April 2025
- Year 9 w/c 27th January 2025
- Year 10 w/c 28th April 2025
- Year 11 Assessment Point 2 will be in the form of their GCSE Examinations

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Feedback and Reporting:

We believe that effective feedback is invaluable for students' development. Following each assessment point, students will receive personalised feedback from their teachers to help them understand their strengths and areas for improvement. You will also receive a Progress Check towards the start of the year, a full academic report towards the end of the year together with the opportunity to discuss your child's progress at Parents' Evening.

Use of Grades

In line with national standards, assessments will be graded on a scale from 1 to 9, with grade 9 representing the highest level of achievement. Our aim is to ensure that students are continually improving and are well-prepared for future examinations, including GCSEs.

I appreciate that some students may experience anxiety around assessments. Please reassure them that they will also be very well prepared for these assessments both in lessons and in tutorial sessions where support will be given to students to develop their study skills and organisation, alongside support for their wellbeing.

We encourage parents to stay involved in their child's education by reviewing feedback and grades, maintaining open communication with teachers, and fostering a positive learning environment at home. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the assessment process or your child's progress.

We are confident that with a shared commitment from students, parents, and teachers, this academic year will be a successful one for everyone. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you this year.

Yours faithfully



Ms I Best
Assistant Head Teacher