

Assessment overview

We are a knowledge rich school. This means our curriculum balances the development and acquisition of knowledge and skills.

Overview

To ensure parents are fully aware of what their child is studying, students have an overview of the topics/skills being covered, stuck in their exercise books. These are stuck in books during the first week of each half term. Students will always bring their books home to enable this information to be shared and also to support them with their homework and revision.

Start of lesson

At the start of every lesson, we have a Low Stakes Quiz which tests a child's memory on prior knowledge that they may need to use within this lesson. This is an important part of the learning process as this stimulates the long-term memory, developing a child's schema.

Ongoing assessment

Assessments which are not mock exams include two sections. The first section is approximately 50 knowledge recall questions (usually one word answers) to ensure they have the knowledge at their disposal to answer more complex in depth questions. The second part of the assessment is knowledge application and this determines to what extent students can then apply the knowledge that they have at their disposal. This means teachers have a really clear understanding on how to ensure students can make rapid improvements.

Summative assessments

We have two summative reporting points within the academic year, one in the Spring Term and one at the end of the year. These assessments test a child's knowledge recall (substantive content and fluency), as well as the application of this knowledge (disciplinary knowledge). As well as this, we continuously formatively assess students to adapt future lessons and learning opportunities.

We report to parents within two weeks of the assessment and we share the students percentage for each part of the assessment. We also report their percentage attendance, behaviour points (positive and negative) and teachers also report on the effort displayed in lesson on a 4-1 scale with 4 being outstanding and 1 being inadequate.

Homework

At KS3 students complete 8 self-quizzing questions a week per subject based on information in a prepared knowledge organiser. This is supplemented with an extended written question.

At KS4 students complete a range of exam style questions for their subjects, with additional tasks around cornell note taking and revision activities.

All students complete online Sparx homework in Maths, English and Science. This is set through the curriculum but Sparx learns individual students strengths and weaknesses and builds retrieval practice to support their learning.

All homework is checked each day.