



The Matthew Arnold School

Part of the Bourne Education Trust



Monday 19th October

Dear Parents and Carers

Baseline English and Mathematics testing

It has been a real pleasure getting to know our new cohort of year 7 students. Despite the unusual circumstances of their start to secondary school, they have appeared to find their feet remarkably well and are quickly becoming an integral part of the school.

During induction week, we promised you that we would not immediately test your children, even though they had missed their KS2 tests at primary school. I think it is fair to say that the overwhelming priority for everybody was to help them adjust to a new school after such a disrupted and unexpected final year at primary school. We had originally planned to test them in the first week back after the half-term break, but for a number of reasons it makes sense to hold the tests before the break:

- These are not exams that students pass or fail. They are baseline tests to help us provide the right education in the coming months and years, and to set targets for progress
- In the past we have often found KS2 SATS to be a misleading picture of children's abilities because of the difference in the way primaries administer the tests and prepare their students - we would rather get a snapshot of children's abilities without months of revision
- Although at the moment it looks as if the government is keeping to its word of not closing schools, the COVID-19 situation remains a high concern.

The tests will be in the style of SATs, but are school tests, not national ones. The results will be used for internal purposes only, unless they flag up any concerns that parents need to know about. They will be held in classrooms. All equipment will be provided, and arrangements made for children with special educational needs or disabilities. TAs will also be on hand to provide support with reading questions as allowed by the test. The timetable is as follows:

Wednesday period 2	English paper 1 - spelling (20 minutes)
Wednesday period 3	Maths paper 1 - arithmetic (30 minutes)
Thursday period 2	English paper 2 - grammar, punctuation and spelling (45 minutes)
Thursday period 3	Maths paper 2 - reasoning (40 minutes)
Friday period 2	Maths paper 3 - reasoning (40 minutes)
Friday period 3	English paper 3 - reading (60 minutes)

If you have any further queries regarding these tests, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Elinor Parker
Head of Year 7

Luke Scott
Assistant Headteacher

