

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust  
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9/10/2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Year 9 Core Tests 30<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

GCSE exams can now only be taken at the end of the school year in May and June of Year 11. At Oaklands, most formal assessment will be through mock exams in June of Year 10 and December of Year 11 to prepare for the terminal summer exams at the end of Year 11.

To help the students prepare for both the academic and organisational requirements of formal exams, at Oaklands we run an additional test season in November for Year 9 students in the core subjects of RE, English, Maths and Science. There is also a reading comprehension and writing task that enables the school to highlight students who may need exam access arrangements. These tests will give accurate information of attainment and progress made through Key Stage 3 to better inform target setting. The outcomes will help children and families with the GCSE subject choices that will be made by students in spring 2024.

Students will be made aware through their subject teachers of the practical details relating to the assessment tasks in each subject, a process likely to include demonstrating to students how the exam questions are structured and assessed. Students will receive clear direction on the topics they need to revise in advance so that they can prepare effectively.

These tests will be taken in the Hall and an overflow room, with appropriate support for students with additional educational needs.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday			Thursday	Friday
Lesson	1	1	1	2	3	3	1
Test	Science (1h)	English Reading (1h)	<b>Cohort 2:</b> Reading Comprehension test (35m), then Writing & Legibility Task (18m)	<b>Cohort 1:</b> Reading Comprehension test (35m), then Writing & Legibility Task (18m)	Maths (1h)	English Writing (45m)	RE (1h)

For period 1 tests, students will attend tutor time and then come down to line up outside the Hall. For period 3 tests, they will come down to the Hall at the end of break. Cohort 1 students will need to come to the Hall at the end of lesson 1 on Wednesday.

Thank you for your on-going support in helping your children to prepare well for these important tests.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Bamford  
**Assistant Headteacher**