



16th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It has been a pleasure getting to know your child and their peers as the school year has developed.

KS3 Assessments Wednesday 4th January – Friday 20th January 2023

Your child will have KS3 assessments that are taking place in Term 3 from the 4th-20th January 2023. These KS3 assessments will be taken across all subjects and will give you and your child an idea of how they are doing in each subject. These assessments may be completed in a variety of ways, if you would like more information, please contact your child's teacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to support you and your child on the build-up, and during the assessments. Please see below revision techniques you may support your child with. Also, best practice around assessments to ensure your child achieves good outcomes.

Revision Techniques

Whilst there are many revision techniques that will have benefits for different individuals, I have shared 4 different techniques with your child in a recent assembly that I believe will support them with their studies. The most important part for a parent/carers is to ensure your child is revising enough for each assessment. Below are the 4 strategies I have shared with your child:-

- Note taking is a method where a student reads information and writes notes. These notes are then read over until the student can remember the notes without looking.
- Flash cards is where a student can write a question on one side of the card, with the answer on the other. Alternatively, they can use a card to write information on so it is in one place, for example definitions or key words.
- Sticky notes are a method where a student has information stuck up around the house and can read pieces of information whilst they are completing every day tasks. For example, a few sticky notes may be placed on mirrors the student uses.
- Study groups is a collaborative method to get students revising with their peers. This allows students to share revision ideas and create revision materials together. Whilst this method is the most interesting, it would need to be monitored to ensure revision is of high quality.

Well-being during Assessments

Assessments can be a stressful time for anyone, however, there are ways to manage anxiety and ensure children are confident when approaching and completing assessments. Below are some tips during assessment periods of how you can support your child:-

- Revision should take place in a quiet place
- Avoid distractions, such as mobile phones
- Revise for 30 minutes, followed by a short break
- Revision should be avoided late at night
- Ensure children are having enough sleep, food and water
- Make sure of regular check-ins with your child to check on their revision and well-being

Cost of living

If you are struggling with costs and think you may be able to apply for free school meals please do contact main reception who will be able to support you or follow this link

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/travel-and-free-school-meals/free-school-meals>.

In school we also provide breakfast club from 08.10 which is free to all students where they can get a warm breakfast. Please do also speak with house teams or reception if you are struggling with other costs relating to school and we will try to offer support and advice where we can.

SEND & Inclusion

We are aware that some parents and carers are in the process of making their own referrals to the Autism Hub for their child. Please make sure to inform us if your child is on the autism pathway, if you haven't already done so. Please email bmasendco@clf.uk. This will allow us to have a wide picture of need and provide the necessary support for our students.

Finally, a reminder that we offer Homework Hub on a Mon-Thurs in the library from 3-4pm. This is an opportunity for students to work with LSA support on their homework, and carry out some interactive pre/re-teach revision activities. Students can attend every day, or can choose one or two days if they prefer. If you would like your child to attend Homework Hub please send me an email.

I will be in touch next term regarding support with the options process, and annual reviews for students with an EHCP.

Sarah Carden-Farley is the Year 9 SEND Link and is deputy SENDco. Please email Sarah for any support regarding SEND concerns/queries.

sarah.carden-farley@clf.uk

I hope you have a good end to the year, and I will be in touch in Term 3. Happy New Year.

Kind regards,

Chris Heesom

Associate Assistant Principal