



# NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

*"creating opportunities for success"*

21 April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Key Stage 3 Assessment Arrangements – Years 7 to 9

I am writing to provide clarity about assessment arrangements for students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9) during the current academic year.

We are keen to ensure that assessment at KS3 is purposeful, proportionate and supportive of both student wellbeing and high-quality learning. Our approach aims to strike a careful balance between gathering meaningful information about students' progress and avoiding unnecessary pressure for students.

### Year 7

Students in Year 7 will not sit formal end-of-year examinations. Instead, departments may choose to set tests or assessments where these are appropriate to their subject and Scheme of Work. Any such assessments will take place as part of normal classroom practice and at points that fit sensibly within the curriculum.

### Year 8

As with Year 7, there will be no formal end-of-year examinations for Year 8 students. Departments may continue to use tests or assessments throughout the year to support learning and inform teacher judgement, again ensuring these are well-timed and manageable for students.

### Year 9

Students in Year 9 will sit formal examinations in **English, Mathematics and Biology, Chemistry and Physics**.

- Each examination will last **45 minutes**.
- Exams will take place in the Hall, or other suitable formal spaces.

These assessments are designed to support GCSE setting decisions and to help students become familiar with formal examination conditions. Other subjects may set assessments, but these will be arranged within normal lessons and aligned with curriculum planning.

### Why we have adopted this approach

Feedback from previous years has shown that formal exam periods in Years 7 and 8 can create unnecessary stress for students, particularly given the number of assessments they already complete across the year. We are also mindful that assessment remains meaningful rather than excessive.

**Headteacher:** Mr Paul Norman MA, MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCE

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By focusing formal examinations on Year 9 core subjects, we can better prepare students for the expectations of GCSE study while maintaining a manageable and balanced assessment structure throughout KS3.

KS3 reporting to parents will take place later in the year, with the reports released on **17 July 2026**.

We hope this information is helpful and reassures you about how we assess and support students during Key Stage 3. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ms H Dalton', written in a cursive style.

**Ms H Dalton**  
**Deputy Headteacher**