

January 2023

Dear Parent

Headteacher - Patrick Earnshaw
Deputy Headteacher - Mathew Downs

Continuous Assessment Reports

We have distributed your child's Continuous Assessment (Autumn Term 2022) Data Drop report today. I hope that you will find this useful in tracking the progress that they are making across their subjects. If your child is not in school today, we will arrange for the report to be posted home.

When we designed the Continuous Assessment system, one of the guiding principles was that we wished to remove centralised assessment deadlines that did not always match the assessment and curriculum cycles within different subjects. You will notice that some units of work are not marked as complete as they will continue into next term or have recently been started. These units will be included in the next printed update at the start of next term.

With Years 7 and 8 not having completed Year 6 SAT tests their expected baseline is based upon information from primary school and internal assessments carried out in school during Year 7. For subjects such as Art, Music, Technology and Physical Education we do not provide a progress statement until Year 8 allowing us to baseline students across Year 7.

The Continuous Assessment area of 'MyHighcliffe' allows you to view any units of work in progress and keep up to date when these are marked as complete. The online system also offers the benefit of allowing parents and students to drill down into the assessment criteria in all units (including future units). Students and parents can see which topics are being studied currently in school, and what standard of knowledge, understanding and skills the students should be aspiring to acquire. As a school we will be undertaking a project over the coming year to increase the curriculum information available to parents which will be linked to these units.

The schools presentation and further information regarding Continuous Assessment can be found at <http://www.highcliffeschool.com/n/3193>

Following this Data Drop, subject areas and the year group tutor team will be reviewing student progress and will identify students in need of support and monitoring at the start of next year. If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please contact their tutor or Head of Achievement via the school office.

Internal Examinations

Years 7, 8 and 9 normally undertake a series of formal internal examinations that are carried out in the school hall during an examination week.

In December 2021 the Department for Education (DfE) and OfQUAL wrote to schools asking us to undertake a series of additional examinations/assessments for Year 11 (GCSEs) and Year 13 (A-Level) students as a contingency in case external examinations are impacted by Covid-19.

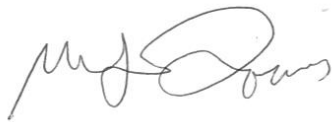
These additional examinations make running Year 7 to 9 internal exams impossible due to the school year, staff workload and facilities therefore we have taken the decision to cancel these formal internal exams. Despite the formal exams being cancelled, subjects will carry out assessments in their own lesson time and use these to inform their teaching.

Year 9 Options

During Year 9 students will pick their GCSE Options ready to start in Year 10. These are important decisions and support by school with online subject information, careers advice, Year 9 Subject/Parent Evening (2nd February) and the Progress/Options Evening (23rd February).

Year 9 parents and students can immediately find out more about the process and the Option Subjects by visiting our Options Portal at <https://www.highcliffe.school/OptionsPortal> (key dates will soon be updated on this section of the website)

Yours sincerely



Mr M Downs
Deputy Headteacher

