

September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to begin by saying how immensely proud we are of our new Y7 students and how well they have settled during their first few weeks at Winterhill. It has been a pleasure to see them enjoying school again after what was a very different end to their primary education.

As you will know, although many students did return to Year 6 in June and July, the KS2 SATs were cancelled, and so we were unable to receive the vital information we would normally have outlining students' strengths and areas of need in English and Mathematics. As you can imagine, this information is incredibly important in ensuring our teachers can best support our Y7 to make excellent progress and challenge them to do their very best as Winterhill students. Therefore, in order to fully support our students in making good progress this year, all Y7 will be completing a short assessment in English and Mathematics over the next few weeks.

These assessments, 'Progress test in English' (PTE) and in 'Progress test Mathematics' (PTM) have become the standardised English and Mathematics assessment of choice in many schools due to their familiarity to students, (with questions in the same style as the KS2 SATs), and their synthesis with the KS2 National Curriculum. The PTE assessment covers reading comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar. The PTM assessment covers age appropriate aspects of mathematical knowledge via mental arithmetic and applying mathematics questions. All the skills and knowledge which will appear on the assessment, will have been covered prior to school closure during their KS2 students and also whilst at Winterhill.

Of course, as students have settled so well, the outcome of these assessments will not result in students moving classes or any change to their school day, rather it is to ensure we have accurate information about our students' strengths and areas of need so that we can best support all students to succeed.

Furthermore, students do not need to do any extra work at home in preparation for the assessments; as all students will be having a presentation in their tutor group to explain the assessment and go through some sample questions etc., so that they understand what will be asked of them. There will also be key staff within each classroom to support all students when completing the assessments.

Once the results are available to us, we will refer to these, (alongside any information passed on from your child's feeder primary school), to ensure all students are able to bridge any gaps in knowledge and to also allow them to build on the skills they have already acquired.

We continue to be very proud of the strong partnerships between our school and the wider community, and therefore, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support in enabling us to create such a smooth primary transition for our Y7 students. Despite the challenges of the last academic year, they have started their journey at Winterhill with enthusiasm and they should all very proud of the superb start they have had.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Rhodes - Headteacher