



# Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

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15th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## RE: Assessment in Year 8

We were delighted to have received such positive and constructive feedback regarding our assessment structure from the last academic year. As a result, we wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to this year's assessment expectations and to map out key dates to help with your ongoing support at home.

### Types of Assessments

There are different types of assessment that students will experience each year at Atlantic Academy. All of them are designed to enable us to support students with their learning and ensure consistent progress is made from Year 7 to 11.

**New Group Reading/Spelling Test:** Students will sit one New Group Reading/Spelling Test (NGRT/ST). This information will assist us in the identification of those students who require initial support and to establish the most suitable teaching groups per subject.

**Knowledge Retrieval Test:** Each subject will set a minimum of one Knowledge Retrieval Test every two weeks, depending on the number of lessons in the cycle. These are low-stakes assessments designed to identify gaps in students' knowledge while reinforcing and embedding prior learning. Teachers use the outcomes to target areas for immediate improvement and to celebrate strengths.

Tests will always be peer or self-marked, ensuring students take an active role in their learning. Where questions are frequently answered incorrectly, teachers will review and revisit the relevant content in subsequent lessons. This supports the development of students' capacity to store and retrieve accurate information over time.

The tests are closely linked to students' self-quizzing within each subject and unit of study. Outcomes will be recorded internally and used to guide tailored interventions, ensuring every student is supported to make sustained progress.

**End of Unit/Topic Assessments:** Each subject will assess students at regular intervals throughout the academic year. The timings of these assessments will be appropriate for that subject curriculum and taken at the end of each unit or topic. Subjects will assess what has been taught and are planned within the subject's curriculum. These assessments will support the development of students' examination skills over time and subjects will pause their curriculum delivery in preparation to focus on personalised learning checklists (PLCs) and effective revision techniques beforehand. Outcomes will be recorded internally to help reward effort and direct student interventions.

**End of year Assessments:** Year 8 students will sit an end of year holistic assessment 'End of Year Examination'. The aim is to assess the content from that year's academic subject curriculum and will be reported as Assessment Point 3. This is in addition to their regular end of topic tests, and will last 50 minutes. These will take place during normal timetabled subject lessons and will be timetabled during a specific fortnight. Examination dates/times will be published



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in advance to help with effective revision at home. Examinations will be marked by the class teacher, moderated within the department and an attainment level will be assigned to the level the student achieved against the subject's Age Related Expectations (ARE). AREs are published on our academy website. Subjects will pause their curriculum delivery for a week, in preparation to focus on personalised learning checklists (PLCs) and effective revision techniques beforehand. Outcomes will be recorded internally to help reward students, direct interventions and set changes for the following year.

## Reporting

Academic reports will be generated twice a year, at the end of the Christmas term and at the end of the academic year. Students will receive an electronic copy of their report and parents/carers will be able to access an electronic copy using their Arbor accounts.

## Parents' Evenings

There will be a subject parents' evening for Year 8 January 20th 2026 , where students and parents/carers can meet with their child's tutor and subject teachers to discuss their attainment and agree on targets for improvement. Parents/carers will receive booking information and instructions nearer to the date.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support. Collectively, we can continue to work together to ensure that students are fully prepared and motivated to do well in every style of assessment we have mapped out for them. Every assessment counts.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Biddle  
Vice Principal