

Our Ref: SLI/ShC/Y9Tests



23 February 2010

**Tanbridge House School**  
A Specialist Science, Mathematics & Computing College

Dear Parents/Carers

I want to take this opportunity to inform you of our response to the abolition of the Key Stage 3 tests in English, Maths and Science. As you are probably aware, until last year, all students in England and Wales took a series of standard tests across the core subjects, during May of Year 9. The tests were externally marked, sometimes quite poorly, and the results were published in league tables and reported to parents/carers towards the end of Year 9. There is no longer a legal requirement for us to administer the tests, and no external marking arrangements now exist.

We do however feel that, because the skills and knowledge developed in Key Stage 3 act as a firm foundation for Key Stage 4 courses, it is appropriate for Year 9 students to undergo end of Key Stage assessments in the main subjects of English, Maths and Science. Further, we are still required to report a Teacher Assessment (TA) level for every subject at the end of the Key Stage. Our intention this year is to set our own internal tests for Maths, English and Science, which will be taken in the exam hall and marked by our own staff. Apart from providing a benchmark for students' progress this will also provide valuable experience for the students in readiness for Year 10 GCSE modular exams, which begin in the Autumn term. The Year 9 tests will take place between 20th and 27th May, and will be done at the following times:

Subject	Date	Time
English	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	9:00 am
Maths	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	9:00 am
Science	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	9:00 am

The marks from these tests, together with any other assessments, class-work, investigations (in Maths and Science) and homework will provide the broad base of information on which the Teacher Assessment levels will be based. No separate levels from the tests will be published. All other subject teachers' will provide a Teacher Assessment level based on similar evidence, but without formal tests such as those employed in the core subjects.

All of the Teacher Assessment levels will be communicated to parents/carers in a summary report sent home in July. Students will be given clear guidance on what will be in the tests and will be expected to carry out some revision of their previous work at home. Only a few lessons in each subject area will be devoted to specific test preparation. If you have any questions regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

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Deputy Headteacher

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