



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are planning for your child to sit their National KS3 tests during the week beginning Monday July 5th and I am writing to share with you some key messages about these tests and their delivery.

Due to the disruption caused by Covid-19, the requirement for schools to run the assessments is on a 'reasonable endeavours' basis. If your child is absent from school during the time the assessments take place please do not worry. We use a range of assessment to help track our learner's progress and guide our teaching and learning.

There are two tests and these are now in the format of online personalised assessments in Numeracy (Procedural) and Reading. Personalised assessments for Numeracy (Reasoning) will not take place this year and will become statutory once again in the 2021/22 academic year.

To support learner wellbeing we have scheduled for both assessments to take place in the classroom, during scheduled lesson times. Your child will be given the specific dates and lessons by their Maths teacher. This information will also be posted on their Maths MS Team.

The online assessments are adaptive, meaning that questions are selected based on the responses to previous questions. This provides a tailored assessment experience for your child. Welsh Government have designed these National Tests for diagnostic use, so that the feedback from the assessment will help your child and their teachers to work together to develop skills through understanding what they can do, the things they need to work on, and their next steps.

In light of this, and following advice from Welsh Government, Ysgol Eirias believes it is very important that learners are not drilled before the tests as this not only causes unnecessary stress for pupils but also has the potential to mask difficulties that some may be experiencing. Consequently, at Eirias, we will not be using teaching time or homework to revise for the National Tests.

Instead, we will continue to focus on delivering high quality teaching and learning of a broad and balanced curriculum throughout the academic year. We regularly track our learners and monitor their progression throughout the year in all subjects and run intervention sessions for learners that we feel require additional support to access their learning.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of Learning in the first instance.

Yours faithfully,

Zoe Evans

Mrs Zoe Evans
Assistant Headteacher

