



Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we approach the 2019 National Tests that your child will be sitting in the summer term, I am writing to share with you some key messages about the tests and their delivery in school.

Welsh Government have designed the National Tests for diagnostic use, so that teachers will have information on the reading and numeracy skills of their learners and have a common understanding of strengths and areas for improvement in these skills. The tests are focused on understanding learner progress, and their function is to guide the next stage of teaching required for each child.

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. That said, familiarising learners with the format of the tests is good practice and we will take every opportunity to prepare our learners for their tests by using similar format questions in their learning rather than teaching to the tests.

For your information, the dates of the tests this year are as follows:

	Numeracy - Procedural	Numeracy - Reasoning	Reading - English
Year 7	Online adaptive tests scheduled to run at different times during the year.	07/05/19 13:20	08/05/19 09:00
Year 8		08/05/19 13:20	09/05/19 09:00
Year 9		30/04/19 13:20	02/05/19 09:00

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

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Sutton
HEADTEACHER

