



# Year 8 Priority Parent Briefing

## Building Strong Foundations

**'Be the best that you can be'**

Respect • Teamwork • Resilience • Ambition • Integrity • Leadership • Self-Belief

# Welcome



'Be the best that you can be'

Year 8 is an important stage in your son's journey, as the habits they form now will help shape their success later on.



# The Year Ahead



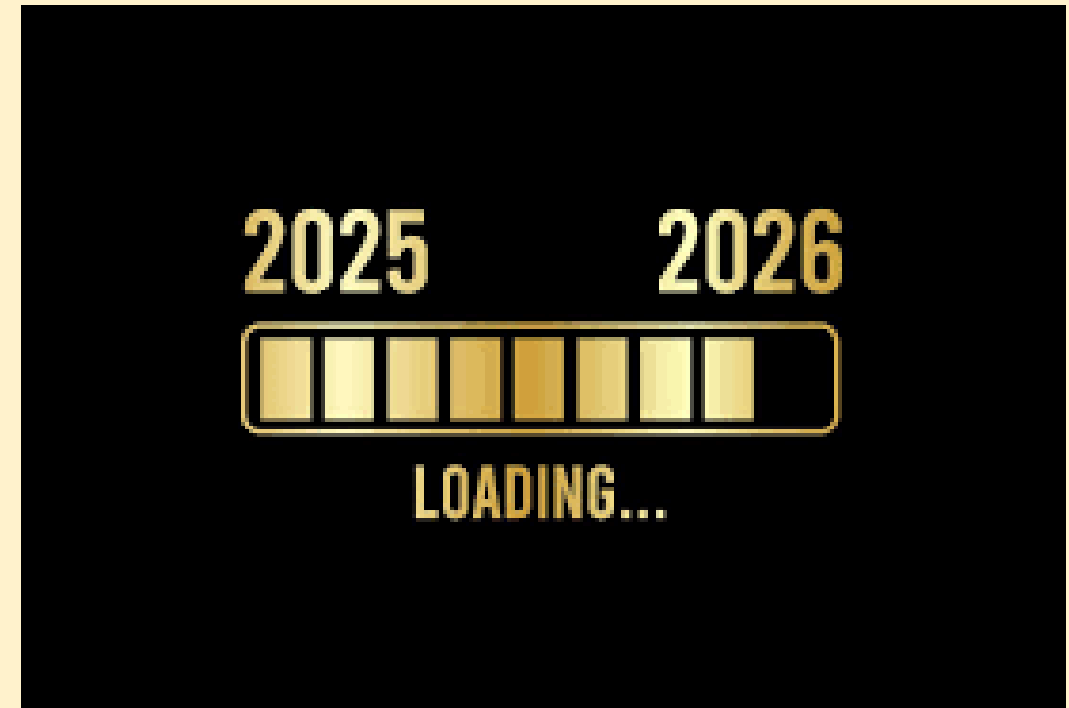
'Be the best that you can be'

26th March 2026:  
Year 8 Subjects Parents Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

8-12th June 2026:  
Year 8 Exams in classrooms

22-26th June 2026:  
Year 8 Exams for Core Subjects in Exam Venues

13-16th July 2026:  
Year 8 Paris Trip



# The Value of Good Habits Now



'Be the best that you can be'

Happiness is when  
you feel good about  
yourself without  
feeling the need for  
anyone else's  
approval.

*DreamsQuote.Com*

# GCSIE



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# Behaviour and Standards



'Be the best that you can be'

**consistency  
is the key to  
success**

**"SET THE BAR HIGH  
TO IMPROVE."**

 Perfect Clicks



# Independent Learning



'Be the best that you can be'

1. Goal-setting
2. Work hard; Play hard; Think hard
3. The elephant in the room



# 1. Goal-setting



a) RTRAILS for in-class learning

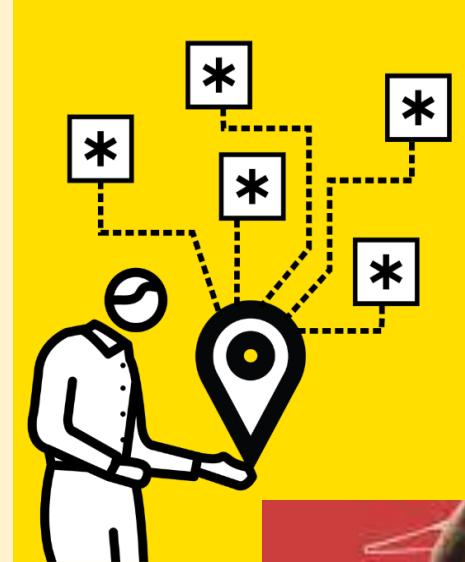
b) Everybody's a Philosopher





## 2. Work hard; Play hard; Think hard

a) 'Locking in'  
*(Metacognition and self-regulation)*



b) Becoming The G.O.A.T  
*(Language for learning & Actioning)*

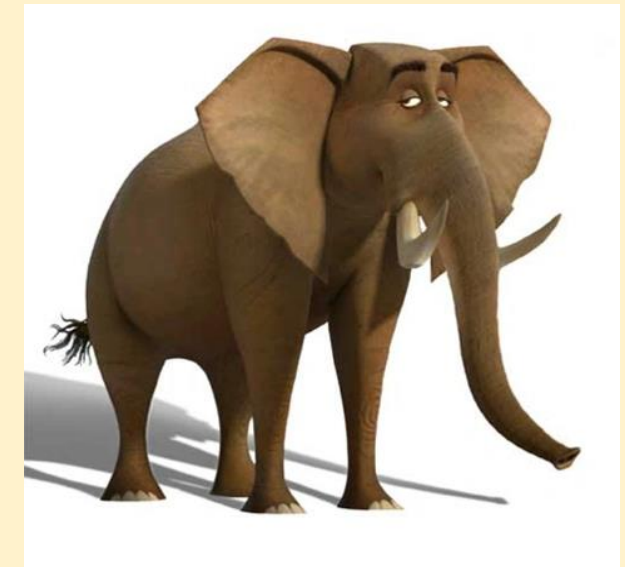
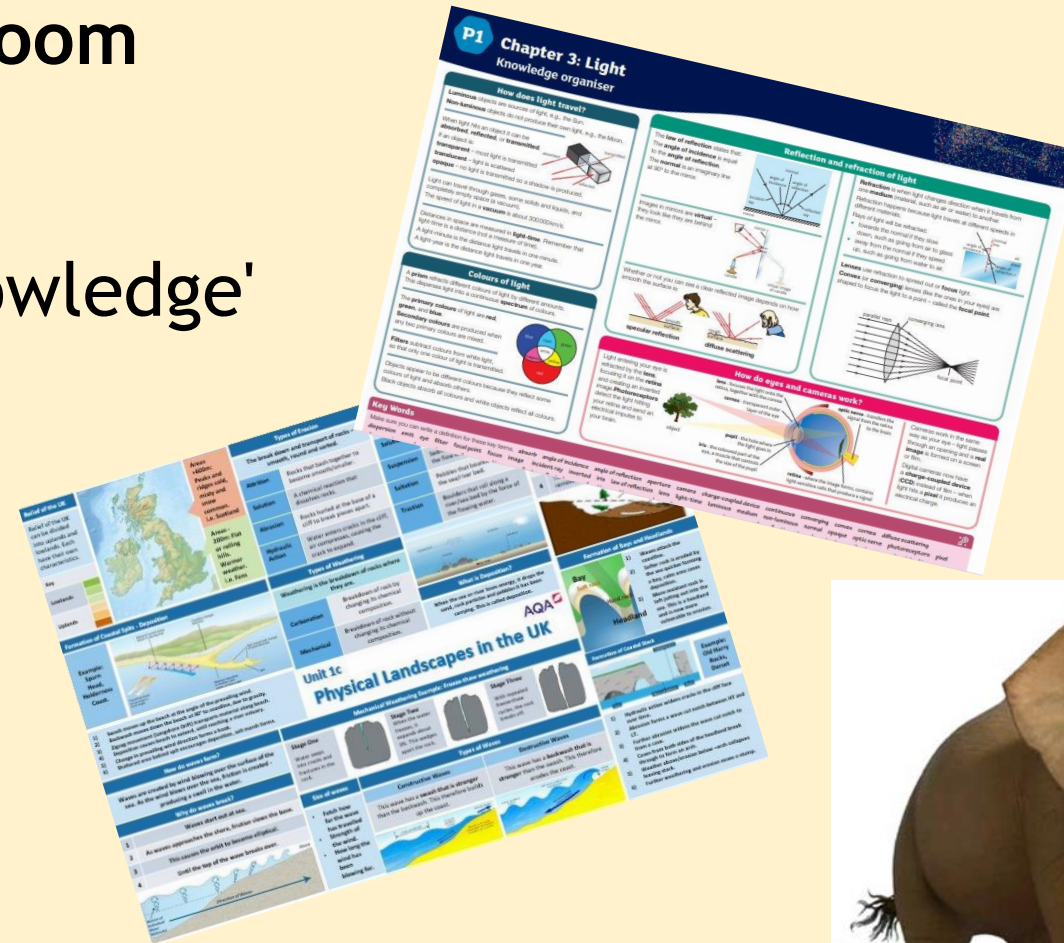




# 3. The elephant in the room

A) Bringing words and 'knowledge' to life

B) Digital literacy



# Assessment and Feedback

## How will my son be assessed?

### In class assessment

Three-part lesson:

#### 1) Retrieval practice starter

This allows for the teacher to quickly identify and plug any gaps in knowledge from the previous lesson OR if it is the start of a new topic, the retrieval may be linked to prior topics to show links and commonalities.

#### 2) Peer or self-assessment

Numerous studies showing the positive impact of 'teaching' peers on own learning.

#### 3) Retrieval practice plenary

Allows teacher and student to have a firm understanding of what they have learnt and where knowledge or skills are.



'Be the best that you can be'

# How will my son be assessed?



'Be the best that you can be'

## Formal assessments and Knowledge Tests

### Each half term - Knowledge tests

- Sat within lesson and either self or peer marked
- Based on Knowledge Organiser
- Made up of multiple choice, short answer or match up questions
- Tests knowledge of the course so far.
- Quickly identifies successes and areas for progress

### Year 8 Knowledge Test: Islam - Beliefs, Practices, and History

1. Multiple Choice: Who was the founder of Islam?

- A. Jesus
- B. Muhammad
- C. Moses
- D. Ibrahim

2. Multiple Choice: What is the holy book of Islam called?

- A. Torah
- B. Bible
- C. Qur'an



# How will my son be assessed?



'Be the best that you can be'

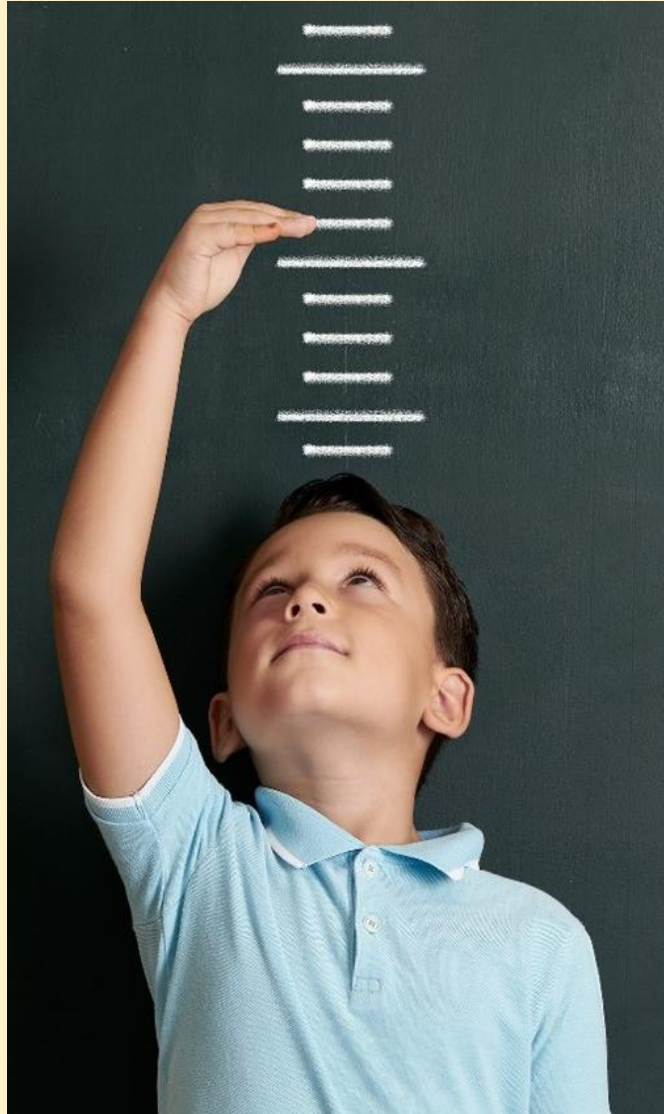
## Formal assessments and Knowledge Tests

### Each term - Formal Assessments

- Sat within lesson
- Longer or more complex questions (often essay based for certain subjects such as Religious Studies or History)
- Tests knowledge and skills
- Teacher assessed with student specific feedback and an opportunity to improve via a What Went Well and Even Better If format.
- Time set aside within lesson for students to respond to the EBI statement and complete tailored, focussed improvements.



# How will I know how my son is progressing?



Just as in Year 7, you will receive three report cards for your son throughout the academic year. *'Be the best that you can be'*

This report will include information regarding his progress and targets within all subjects.

These provide a great platform for you to discuss your son's progress with him and to refer to during Parent's Evenings.

## Key Assessment Terminology

- **Current working grade:** The grade your son is currently achieving.
- **Target grade :** The grade we aspire for your son to achieve.
- **Attitude to learning:** Levels of engagement and effort in lessons

# How will I know how my son is progressing?



The image shows a template for a Year 8 Religious Education book cover. It features a red header with the text 'Year 8' and 'Believe and Achieve'. To the right of the header is a logo with a cross and a crescent moon, and a crest with a horse and three stars. Below the header, there are fields for 'Name', 'Subject: Religious Education', 'Teacher', 'Class', and 'Target Grade'. The main body of the cover is divided into two sections: 'Knowledge Test' and 'Formal Assessment'. The 'Knowledge Test' section has a table with columns for 'Topic' and 'Mark (include out of)'. The 'Formal Assessment' section has a table with columns for 'Topic', 'Grade', 'Even Better if', and 'Target Met?'. At the bottom of the cover, there is a list of values: 'Respect - Teamwork - Resilience - Ambition - Integrity - Leadership - Self-Belief'.

Year 8  
Believe and Achieve

TC

Name..... Subject: Religious Education

Teacher..... Class.....

Target Grade.....

Knowledge Test	
Topic	Mark (include out of)

Formal Assessment			
Topic	Grade	Even Better if	Target Met?

Respect - Teamwork - Resilience - Ambition - Integrity - Leadership - Self-Belief

Another way to see how your son is progressing is to look at the front of his book

Each subject has a bespoke front cover that contains the following information:

- Target grade
- Knowledge Test topic and mark
- Formal Assessment:

Topic

Grade achieved

EBI comment (how he can improve for next time)

Has his target been met?

Again, this can be a great area for discussion with your son regarding his successes and areas of additional support.



'Be the best that you can be'



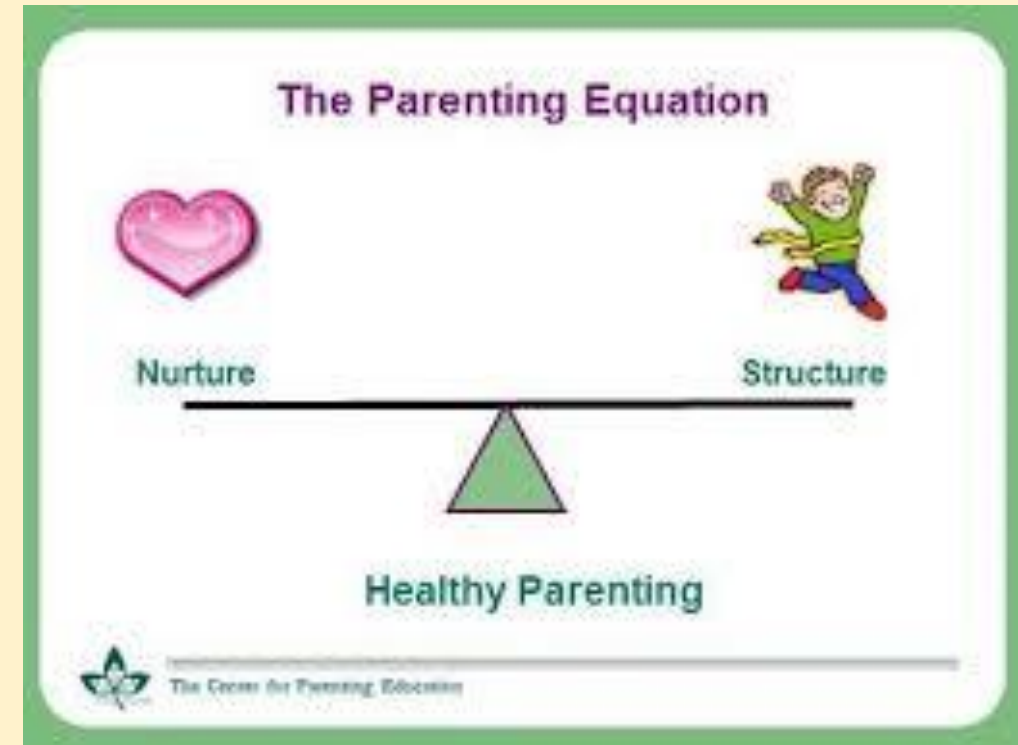
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# Parental Role



'Be the best that you can be'

- **Attendance matters** - aim for every day in school and support punctuality.
- **Check TEAMS** - show interest, ask about deadlines, and encourage good study habits.
- **Create routines** - set regular times for homework, reading, sleep, and screen use.
- **Talk about learning** - ask what was learned today, not just "how was school?"
- **Celebrate effort as well as results** - praise perseverance and progress, not only grades.
- **Encourage independence** - let your son try first before stepping in to help.
- **Stay connected with school** - attend parent evenings, check emails/updates, and contact staff when needed.
- **Model balance** - show that work, rest, hobbies, and family time are all important.



# The Challenge



'Be the best that you can be'



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iObc293g8wo>

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