

15th March 2024

Dear Parent / Carer & Pupil

Year 8 Science Transfer Test for Thomas Alleyne's High School

As some of you may be aware, in previous years our KS3 pupils have undertaken a number of tests as part of the transition process to their new school.

In recent weeks we've been working with Thomas Alleyne's and the other Middle Schools (Oldfields and Windsor Park) to agree the format and content of a test for the Year 8 pupils to sit. The result of the tests will be used to help inform the setting of pupils in Science when they join Thomas Alleyne's, or other chosen school.

Pupils will take the test during the week beginning 3rd June 2024.

In developing the test we have worked to ensure that the test provides as accurate a picture as possible of a pupil's ability and represents a level playing field across the schools. The content of the test will be based on units taught to all students across the middle schools.

The attached document provides advice to pupils on how they can effectively prepare for the tests. Please note that this is only one method for effective revision and you may have your own idea of how best to do this.

There is an agreement across the schools, including the Science department at TAHS, that there will be no directed revision other than the details provided in the attached. However, we are available if your child has a particular question or problem about a topic area.

I hope that you find the attached helpful.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Hall
Deputy Headteacher/DSL/Science Teacher



Mr G Jones
Science Teacher

TAHS Transfer Test: Science

Like pupils at the other Middle Schools, at the start of June you will be sitting a transfer test for Thomas Alleyne's High School, the results of this will inform the decision of which set you are in come September.

The papers will test your knowledge, understanding and application of a selection of units studied during Year 7 and follows the format of an old "KS3 SATS paper". The units to be covered are the following:

1. Cells (Year 7)
2. Reproduction (Year 7)
3. Food & Digestions
4. Atoms, Elements and Compounds
5. Acids and Alkalis (Year 7)
6. Particles (Year 7)
7. Light
8. Heating and Cooling

I have indicated which topics are from Year 7.

The questions on *Scientific Skills* will be used to gauge the scientific investigation skills that you have studied and used in KS3 from the "How Science Works element" of the KS3 curriculum. This will examine your understanding of planning investigations (fair tests, variables (control, independent and dependent), obtaining and presenting evidence, considering evidence and evaluating results presented in graphs and tables.

We would advise you to start your preparation for the tests now. It is far better to start your revision well in advance. There are lots of resources to help with revision, below are a few:

- Revision Guides – there are a wide variety of these available from bookshops, or for purchase via the internet. Collins and CGP Books both produce revision guides;
- Internet, here are just few of the hundreds of helpful sites. **The Oak Academy** (<https://www.thenational.academy/>) is a fantastic resources which provides teacher led videos and activities. Below are the links directly to the units on which you'll be tested:
 - Food and Digestion
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/digestion-and-nutrition-9fd9>
 - Elements, Compounds and Mixtures
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/atoms-and-the-periodic-table-68d3>

- The following website also provide helpful revision material:
 - www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/science
 - www.scibermonkey.org
 - www.docbrown.info/ks3science.htm
 - www.darvill.clara.net/myon.htm
 - www.sats-papers.co.uk (The test questions are based on past KS3 SATs papers, these can be downloaded free from this site, although you do need to register.)

Effectively revision is not just reading through your file or revision guide, so below are a few ideas to help. (These will be equally useful for other subjects you are revising for now, or in the future.)

Revision Suggestions

Where should I revise?

Find somewhere quiet and comfy with a good light. It is important that it is quiet as it is the best way to concentrate after all you sit tests in silence.

Make a revision timetable...

.... yes and try to stick to it.... and this requires will power!

Make sure the timetable covers all the units of science

Mix your strong and weak units so you don't do all of your difficult ones on the same day.

Distractions

TV, mobile phone, computer games, etc... should be avoided during your revision sessions.

Practise Questions

Practise makes perfect and it's true - this is essential.

Your revision guides and many of the websites have practice questions to check your understanding. Do as many as possible and use the mark scheme to make comparisons to understand what examiners are looking for.

<http://www.satspapers.co.uk> is one site where you can access past SAT papers (Remember to focus of those questions linked to the Units of Study listed above.).

Below is one method of revision that you might want to try.

Step 1: Understand

- Study the topic to be learnt slowly
- Make sure you understand the key points and ideas
- Mark up the text if necessary – underline, highlight etc
- Re-read each paragraph slowly

GO TO STEP 2

Step 2: Summarise

- Now make your revision note summary
- What is the main idea, theme and concept?
- What are the main points?
- Use bullet points, minds maps, patterned notes
- Link ideas using mnemonics, mind maps, crazy stories
- Note the title and date of the revision notes
- Organise the notes carefully and keep them in a file

GO TO STEP 3, but first take a break.

Step 3: Memorise

- Take 25 minutes learning 'bites' with 5 min breaks
- After each 5 min break test your self
- Cover the original notes summary
- Write down the main points
- Speak it out loud
- Tell someone else
- Repeat many times

GO TO STEP 4.

Step 4: Double check/Review

- Revisit units you have already revised to check that you remember the key points
- To help, create a revision diary to keep check of what you've revised and when.

If you start your revision early, plan your revision carefully and follow your plan, your chances of success are greater. If you have any questions about the above please speak to your Science teacher.

Good luck!