



Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Year 9 Parent and Carers

## **Re – Year 9 Formal Assessments – English, Maths and Science**

Year 9 formal assessments in English, Maths and Science will take place on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th January. These assessments allow us to measure students' progress so far, while also giving them valuable practice in real exam conditions. Beyond testing knowledge, they help students build confidence, manage time and pressure, and refine their exam technique—skills that will be essential for success in their GCSE exams at the end of Year 11.

Further details about the content of each paper and the topics students should revise will be shared separately.

It is essential that students arrive fully equipped, as we cannot guarantee spare equipment will be available. Please ensure your child has:

- A black pen (plus a spare)
- A ruler
- A pencil, sharpener and eraser
- A calculator

In GCSE examinations, some students may be entitled to Access Arrangements (for example, extra time or the use of a computer). To establish this entitlement, schools must build a clear evidence base. For this reason, most students will sit these assessments without adjustments. However, the results will contribute to our evaluation of whether access arrangements may be appropriate for individual students.

As Year 9 students begin to make decisions about their KS4 studies, I would also like to highlight an important detail about the science curriculum. The majority of students will study Combined Science GCSE in Years 10 and 11. However, the highest attaining students may follow the Separate Sciences route (Physics, Chemistry and Biology). Performance in the upcoming Science assessment will be a key factor in determining the most suitable pathway for each student.

Finally, please note two important dates this term:

- Options Evening – Thursday 26th February, 6.30pm. All Year 9 parents, carers and students are warmly invited. We will provide information about the curriculum choices available for Years 10 and 11.
- Parents' and Carers' Evening – Thursday 12th March.



# New Mills School

Thank you for your continued support in helping students prepare for these assessments.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Halls  
Deputy Headteacher