



Tomlinscote School

8th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 8 Students

Year 8 Science Tests

Welcome back to school. I hope you and your families had a restful break.

As you may already know, students complete an online Google Forms quiz every few science lessons to help us monitor their understanding. Teachers use these low-stakes assessments to provide timely feedback and to address any common misconceptions.

Alongside these regular quizzes, students sit two written science tests each year. These assessments give them valuable practice in working through longer written questions and help build the skills they will need when they begin their GCSE Science course in January 2027.

The first of these written assessments - the mid-year test - will take place during the week commencing 26th January 2026. It will last 35 minutes and will be completed during students' usual science lessons. This test will assess the chemistry and physics topics studied last term, as well as the Year 7 biology topic on cells and ecosystems.

Topics included in the mid-year assessment:

- Year 7 – Biology 1: Cells and Ecosystems
- Year 8 – Chemistry 3: Combustion and the Periodic Table
- Year 8 – Physics 3: Electricity and Space

The second written assessment - the final year test - will take place during the school-wide Year 8 Progress Week, scheduled for the week commencing 11th May 2026. This will also be a 35-minute written test completed in students' usual science lessons. The final assessment may cover any of the science topics studied across Years 7 and 8, and further details will be shared closer to the time.

All students will have their usual exam access arrangements in place to support them in doing their best. This may include extra time, access to an e-reader, or the use of an iPad for writing, where appropriate.

To help students prepare for the mid-year assessment in two weeks' time, their home learning will be to revise for the test. Teachers will provide guidance on effective revision, and all students have access to resources via the Key Stage 3 Science Revision Padlet (please see the links overleaf).

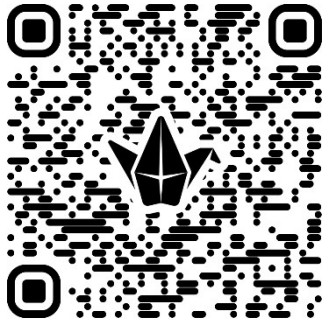
These assessments are similar in style to those completed in Year 7. The results will contribute to decisions about the most appropriate set for each student in Year 9, alongside their classwork, progress, and teachers' professional judgement. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I wish your child every success in their science learning and upcoming assessments.

Yours faithfully

Mr Juan

Key Stage 3 Science Lead

Links to Key Stage 3 Science Revision Padlet



<https://padlet.com/pjuan2/key-stage-3-science-revision-rzezoty2hh7esqeb>