

# Forge Valley School

KS3 Curriculum





## Key Stage Three Curriculum at Forge Valley School

Schools now have to prepare pupils for GCSE exams which are more challenging. Examinations now take place at the end of each course. This places more demand on pupils being independent in their learning and helps to retain knowledge over time. There are also higher literacy and numeracy demands placed on the pupils as they sit their examinations throughout the curriculum, not just in Maths and Science.

In response to these challenges, Forge Valley School has constructed a new Key Stage 3 curriculum so that our pupils are best prepared.

This curriculum includes the following:

- The development of assessment plans for each subject.
- The alignment of exams throughout the school.
- An exam format to encourage a mastery of learning.
- The incorporation of literacy teaching and literacy assessment in all subjects.
- A thorough intervention programme for any pupils falling behind.

## Assessment Plans

Throughout Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils have three assessment points.

Each subject has an assessment plan and on each plan you will find the same information:

The topics covered throughout the year

- The Assessments – shown by the red lines on the assessment plan
- Data entry points – where teachers will report on your child's current level of attainment

Using this assessment plan, your child will be able to identify the topics they need to revise for each assessment.

As a school, we will report the grade the pupils have achieved in their last examination. These examinations have been carefully planned and they will help us to identify the pupils in need of further support or more challenge.

Assessment plans can be accessed through the KS3 section of the school website.

# An Example Assessment Plan for English

Y9			Y8			Y7		
Novel - Paper 1 Q1, 2, 5	1	5-Sep-16	Novel - Paper 1 Q1, 2, 5	1	5-Sep-16	S+L Unit	1	5-Sep-16
	2	12-Sep-16		2	12-Sep-16		2	12-Sep-16
	3	19-Sep-16		3	19-Sep-16	3	19-Sep-16	
	4	26-Sep-16		4	26-Sep-16	4	26-Sep-16	
	5	3-Oct-16		5	3-Oct-16	5	3-Oct-16	
	6	10-Oct-16		6	10-Oct-16	6	10-Oct-16	
	7	17-Oct-16		7	17-Oct-16	7	17-Oct-16	
	8	24-Oct-16		8	24-Oct-16	8	24-Oct-16	
9	31-Oct-16	9	31-Oct-16	9	31-Oct-16			
REVISION	9	7-Nov-16	REVISION	9	7-Nov-16	REVISION	9	7-Nov-16
Speaking and Listening Advocacy Project	10	14-Nov-16	Non-Fiction	10	14-Nov-16	Irish Poetry	10	14-Nov-16
	11	21-Nov-16		11	21-Nov-16		11	21-Nov-16
	12	28-Nov-16		12	28-Nov-16		12	28-Nov-16
	13	5-Dec-16		13	5-Dec-16		13	5-Dec-16
14	12-Dec-16	14	12-Dec-16	14	12-Dec-16			
	19-Dec-16		19-Dec-16		19-Dec-16			
	26-Dec-16		26-Dec-16		26-Dec-16			
19th Century Literature - Paper 2	15	2-Jan-17	Gothic Genre - Paper 2 - Q1, 3, 5	15	2-Jan-17	Grammar for Writing - Honor	15	2-Jan-17
	16	9-Jan-17		16	9-Jan-17		16	9-Jan-17
	17	16-Jan-17		17	16-Jan-17		17	16-Jan-17
	18	23-Jan-17		18	23-Jan-17		18	23-Jan-17
	19	30-Jan-17		19	30-Jan-17		19	30-Jan-17
	20	6-Feb-17		20	6-Feb-17		20	6-Feb-17
21	13-Feb-17	21	13-Feb-17	21	13-Feb-17			
20-Feb-17	20-Feb-17	20-Feb-17	20-Feb-17	20-Feb-17	20-Feb-17			
REVISION	22	27-Feb-17	REVISION	22	27-Feb-17	REVISION	22	27-Feb-17
AQA Old Spec Relationships Anthology/Poems	23	6-Mar-17	Conflict	23	6-Mar-17	'Our Day Out'	23	6-Mar-17
	24	13-Mar-17		24	13-Mar-17		24	13-Mar-17
	25	20-Mar-17		25	20-Mar-17		25	20-Mar-17
	26	27-Mar-17		26	27-Mar-17		26	27-Mar-17
27	3-Apr-17	27	3-Apr-17	27	3-Apr-17			
	10-Apr-17		10-Apr-17		10-Apr-17			
	17-Apr-17		17-Apr-17		17-Apr-17			
Literary non-fiction and pure fiction - Full papers	28	24-Apr-17	Literary short stories - Paper 2 - Q1, 2, 3, 5	28	24-Apr-17	Holidays - Non-fiction - Paper 2 - Q1, 2, 5	28	24-Apr-17
	29	1-May-17		29	1-May-17		29	1-May-17
	30	8-May-17		30	8-May-17		30	8-May-17
	31	15-May-17		31	15-May-17		31	15-May-17
32	22-May-17	32	22-May-17	32	22-May-17			
	29-May-17		29-May-17		29-May-17			
REVISION	33	5-Jun-17	REVISION	33	5-Jun-17	REVISION	33	5-Jun-17
'Macbeth' - Shakespeare	34	12-Jun-17	'Much Ado about Nothing' - Shakespeare	34	12-Jun-17	'Romeo and Juliet' - Shakespeare	34	12-Jun-17
	35	19-Jun-17		35	19-Jun-17		35	19-Jun-17
	36	26-Jun-17		36	26-Jun-17		36	26-Jun-17
	37	3-Jul-17		37	3-Jul-17		37	3-Jul-17
	38	10-Jul-17		38	10-Jul-17		38	10-Jul-17
	39	17-Jul-17		39	17-Jul-17		39	17-Jul-17

## Key Stage 3 Exams

Exams at Key Stage 3 encourage the mastery approach to learning and assessment.

- 40% Assessment of recently taught content
- 40% Assessment of historical content
- 20% Assessment of current content but placed into a new context

Year 7 Exam weeks – w/c 14/11/16  
w/c 13/3/17  
w/c 12/6/17

Year 8 Exam weeks – w/c 14/11/16  
w/c 6/3/17  
w/c 12/6/17

Year 9 Exam weeks – w/c 21/11/16  
w/c 6/3/17  
w/c 19/6/17

Please note that these dates may be subject to slight change.

## Extended Writing

The aim of extended writing is to provide pupils with an opportunity to develop their literacy skills.

The skills are:

- using appropriate sentence forms
- writing for purpose
- using a range of different punctuation with accuracy
- appropriate paragraphing with a variety of openers

On the next page you will find the literacy matrix which teachers use to mark and provide feedback on pupils.

When your child receives this feedback we would like you to encourage them to respond to the teacher comments using green pen.

The extended writing plans along with the calendar for these can be accessed through the KS3 section of the school website, under the title of 'Extended writing'.



# Whole School Literacy Matrix

## AMBITION—ENDEAVOUR—SUCCESS

Level	Sentence Variety and Paragraphing	Technical Accuracy	Vocabulary	Spelling
4	<p>I always use a full range of appropriate sentence forms for effect.</p> <p>I always use imaginative, precise and accurate sentences which are matched to purpose, audience and intended effect.</p> <p>I always use a full range of punctuation, with a high level of accuracy.</p> <p>I always use consciously crafted, fluently linked paragraphs with varied openers.</p>	<p>I always use a variety of accurate sentences which are matched to purpose, audience and intended effect.</p>	<p>I always use extensive and ambitious vocabulary with precision.</p>	<p>I always spell words accurately, including ambitious vocabulary.</p>
		<p>I always use coherent paragraphs with some variation in openers.</p>	<p>I always use a wide range of punctuation, mostly accurately.</p>	<p>I always use extensive and ambitious vocabulary.</p>
2	<p>I always use simple and compound sentences and I attempt to use complex sentences.</p> <p>I sometimes use paragraphs accurately.</p>	<p>I always write in accurate, complete sentences.</p>	<p>I use interesting vocabulary, which is sometimes chosen for effect.</p>	<p>I can spell basic and some complex words correctly.</p>
		<p>I always use capital letters, full stops and commas correctly.</p>		
1	<p>I write in simple sentences.</p> <p>I sometimes try to use paragraphs.</p>	<p>I write in complete sentences.</p>	<p>I use simple vocabulary.</p>	<p>I can spell basic words correctly.</p>
		<p>I sometimes use capital letters, full stops and commas correctly.</p>		

## Revision and Assessment

Each department has provided revision materials and/or revision advice to help your child in their preparation for examinations.

Please encourage your child to use these materials when planning for assessments. The assessment plans for each subject will inform you which topics have been covered.

Please remember that 40% of every examination will cover any of the content covered so far throughout Key Stage 2 and 3. Past revision materials will always be available to support this aspect of revision.

Revision documents can be accessed through the KS3 section of the school website. Please watch the revision tips videos and discuss revision with your child.



**GEOGRAPHY**

**TERM 1**

	Fabulous Geography	Crazy Weather	Coast	Volcanos	China	Ecosystems	Rivers & Floods	Earthquakes
Year 7	Current							
Year 8				Current				
Year 9								Current

## How Will We Report on your Child's Attainment and Progress?

Three data tracks will take place throughout the year and will be in a similar format to the example to the right. The first and last track will include comments from each teacher about 'the next steps' your child must take to make further improvements. It is an expectation that all pupils respond to these comments and take action on their feedback.

Please note that there is a significant change in reporting home to you compared to previous years. We will share the last assessment grade achieved in each subject. We now use a 1-9 grade to report attainment, which replaces the old KS3 Levels. This is based on the new grading for GCSE.

Within each grade we are using fine grades to show progress.

Grade Descriptors	
1	F
2	E
3	D
4	C
5	(B)C
6	B
7	A
8	A*
9	A**

1.1 they are entering level 1 and beginning to show ability at this grade.  
1.2 they are developing level 1 and are now working at this grade but are not yet completely confident.  
1.3 they are a secure level 1 and are working confidently at this grade and are starting to move up to the next grade.

Your child's current attainment is their position along the journey towards GCSE. The new grades are shown to the left with their 'old version' conversions.

# An Example Report

<b>Year 7 Review 1 of 3</b> November 2015			
To:			
Name:		Tutor: 7JT (301887)	
Target	This is set using your KS2 scores and other information about you		
Current	This is the level you are currently working at.		
<b>Work Ethos</b>			
1	Excellent Work Ethos.		
2	Good Work Ethos.		
3	Some improvement needed.		
4	Poor Work Ethos.		
Subject	Forge Valley end of year Target (1-4)	Assessed Grade (1-4)	Work Ethos (1-4)
English	3.3	3.1	1
Mathematics	4.1	3.3	1
Science	3.2	3.1	2
Geography	3.3	3.2	2
History	2.1	2.2	1
Spanish	4.1	4.1	2
Religious Studies	4.1	4.1	2
ICT	3.3	3.2	2
Technology	2.3	2.2	2
Music	3.1	2.3	2
Physical Education	3.3	3.2	1
Literacy Level In English: Level 3			
Attendance this year: 90.2%			

The colours represents whether your child is reaching their target.

Green = On-track to achieve their end of year target

Amber = Not yet on-track to achieve their end of year target

## Intervention at Key Stage 3

At Forge Valley School we encourage all our pupils to strive to achieve their very best. All pupils who perform below their expected grade will take part in an intervention programme, where they will be offered help as they work towards completing the assessment.

Once results are collected we will complete an analysis of performance and we will identify pupils in need of further support, as well as those who need to be stretched further.

A designated teacher will work with pupils who fall behind on each assessment. We will encourage them to use the revision materials provided on the school website so they can be better prepared for their next assessment. On some occasions we may get them to re-sit the same assessment.

We also monitor pupils' current literacy levels and offer support in helping them make further improvements.

Parents will be informed if their child is invited to a period six support session.

## A Designated Key Stage 3 Webpage for Forge Valley School

In support of this new curriculum, a new section to the Forge Valley School website has been created. On this site the following can be found;

- Assessment plans for each subject
- Revision materials for all subjects (**Essential examination preparation materials**)
- An extended writing/literacy writing calendar
- The extended writing tasks per subject

Please encourage your child to use these resources to support their learning. If you have any questions that relate to Key Stage 3 then please do not hesitate to contact me on [mbarker@forgevalleyschool.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:mbarker@forgevalleyschool.sheffield.sch.uk)

Mark Barker

Assistant Headteacher KS3

<http://www.forgevalleysheffield.org/ks3-curriculum.html>



**ASSESSMENT  
PLANS**



**EXTENDED  
WRITING**



**REVISION &  
ASSESSMENT**

**Ambition - Endeavour – Success**

Useful Information  
Telephone : 0114 234 8805  
Email: [enquiries@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk)

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