

MAESTEG SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The Welsh National Tests for year 7, 8 and 9 in Reading and Numeracy Reasoning are scheduled from Wednesday 1st May - Thursday 7th May 2019. Please note that you will find a copy of the timetable overleaf.

The Welsh National Tests are very important indicators of how well your child can perform in test conditions and provide excellent training for the demands of the GCSE examinations. Teachers in English and Mathematics are busy helping your child revise in class and are providing exemplar questions so that he/she is completely prepared for the tests. In addition, all our teachers are working to develop your child's literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum. Please check with your child that they are bringing home past papers so that you can work on revision together.

At Maesteg School, we believe that the Welsh National Tests are extremely important. We use an average of raw scores (in Reading and Numeracy Procedural) to help inform the population of our sets, particularly in English and Mathematics at Key Stage 3. It is vitally important that your child should approach all the tests with a determination to succeed. The tests are designed to extend the pupils so they need to be resilient and expect to apply their knowledge to answer increasingly difficult questions.

Consequently, we would ask you to emphasise to your child the importance of preparing well for the tests, both at home and in school. In addition, pupils must make excellent use of the reading time, which is given at the beginning of the tests and must answer all questions so that they submit completed answer booklets. Your child's English and Mathematics teachers will be available before the tests to speak to all the pupils to remind them of what they need to do to succeed. It is understood, that attendance in all the tests is of paramount importance.

The way in which the Numeracy Procedural test is conducted has this year changed across Wales. These tests are now personalised assessments which are undertaken as online adaptive tests twice a year. In order to access the outcomes of your child's test in this area you will be required to login to their Hwb Cymru account. Should your child have mislaid these login details, please contact the school. Attached to this letter is a guide, which offers further information about the nature of this new test.

Please could you take a little time to read the attached timetable so that you are aware of the date and time of each test. Please also ensure that your child comes to school with the correct equipment: black biro, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator.

If you wish to have any further information or clarification about these tests, either please use the link below or contact your child's current English or Maths teachers or myself.

<https://learning.gov.wales/docs/learningwales/publications/190325-information-for-parents-carers-2-9-en.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Tania Hill.

Motivated to Strive / Ysgogi i Ymdrechu

