



**ST BERNARD'S
HIGH SCHOOL**

Key stage 5

Year 13 – assessment booklet

Advice for students, parents and carers

Respect, Service and Justice



At our school, we're committed to ensuring that both students and their families have a clear understanding of how assessments and feedback work. To support your child's learning journey, we've created a comprehensive assessment calendar for each year group, so you'll always know when assessments are coming up and can help your child prepare effectively.

For even more details about each assessment—what's expected, how to prepare, and when it's happening—will be shared with students in class and via Microsoft Teams. While we strive to stick to the schedule, please note that assessments may occasionally be rescheduled due to unforeseen factors like staff availability, school trips, or to better align with the curriculum. We'll always do what's best for your child's learning experience.

Key Stage 5 (Year 13)

Assessments - Advice for Parents and Carers

Year 13

At St Bernard's, we want to ensure that both you and your child feel well-informed about how assessments and feedback work. To help you support your child's learning, we've put together a detailed assessment calendar for each year group, so you'll always know when assessments are coming up and can help your child prepare in advance.

In addition, more information about each assessment—what's expected, how to prepare, and when it will take place—will be shared with students during class and on Microsoft Teams. While we aim to stick to the schedule, please be aware that assessment dates may occasionally change due to unexpected factors like staff availability or school trips. We'll always make sure that any changes are communicated and that the adjustments are in the best interest of your child's learning.

Key Stage 5 (Year 13) Assessments – What Parents and Carers Need to Know:

For Year 13 students, assessments will take place throughout the school year, with key milestones that feed into the reports we send home. Please note that assessment dates may vary slightly across different subjects, as each department follows its own sequence and pace of teaching.

Our goal is to offer meaningful opportunities for students to show their progress, while keeping the experience balanced and not overly stressful. We want to make sure that assessments support your child’s academic growth in a way that helps them thrive, without causing unnecessary pressure.

While assessment dates are generally fixed, there may be occasional changes due to factors like staff absences or disruptions, but these will be rare. We’ll keep your child updated on any changes to the schedule.

Mock exams

Year 13

Year 13 students will complete *two* full sets of internal mock examinations in November and February, with exact dates and a full timetable to be confirmed closer to the time. These are designed not only to sharpen exam skills and build confidence but also to allow teachers to refresh and update predicted grades. As with Year 12, evidence from these mocks will be used to refresh predictions and ensure key interventions are implemented.

Revision guidance, including the topics to be covered, will be shared with students closer to the time to help them prepare effectively. Both mock series will replicate the real exam environment as closely as possible, and any breach of examination regulations could result in disqualification — just as it would in the actual public exams.

Following each mock season, we will also hold a *mock results day* to give students a valuable insight into what results day will be like. It's important to remind students that these mocks are a rehearsal — there is still time to learn, improve, and grow before the final exams arrive.

Should there ever be a situation where public examinations are disrupted, it is standard practice for exam boards to call upon mock results as part of the evidence base. It is essential that students approach these mocks seriously, understanding just how important they are to their final outcomes.

2025-2026	AUTUMN TERM				CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	SPRING TERM			EASTER HOLIDAYS	SUMMER TERM			
	September	October	November	December		January	February	March		April	May	June	July
Year 13			Mock Examinations	Progress Report Consultation Evening			Mock Examinations	Progress Report			Public Examinations		

UCAS SUPPORT

Many students choose to go to university, and we ensure that students are prepared for the application process. This starts in year 12. To gain entry to university, the UCAS Tariff points are used by many universities and colleges to set their entry requirements and to make offers. Currently, one third of courses in the UCAS search tool have a Tariff entry requirement.

Instead of asking for grades, a university might express the offer as a number of points. To help understand how many points a qualification is worth, UCAS has a Tariff calculator on its website that you can use.

Here is a table of the points available for courses run at St Bernard's:

Grade	A Level	AS Tariff	EPQ Tariff	Core Maths Tariff	BTEC Extended Certificate Tariff
A*	56		28		Distinction* 56
A	48	20	24	20	Distinction 48
B	40	16	20	16	
C	32	12	16	12	Merit32
D	24	10	12	10	
E	16	6	8	6	Pass16

Please note that not all qualifications attract UCAS points. Only one third of Level 3 qualifications are on the Tariff. Universities and colleges accept a range of qualifications, including those not on the Tariff. Contact Universities directly as to what other qualifications they take into consideration when making an offer.

Key dates for student's UCAS application

Date for 2026 Entry	Internal/External Deadline	Tasks/actions
03/09/25	Internal	First draft of personal statement handed to tutors for checking.

26/09/25	Internal	Internal deadline for early applicants to submit UCAS form to centre.
15/10/25	Internal	Final deadline for completed early applications to be checked.
15/10/25	External	<p>(18:00 UK time) Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science.</p> <p>You can add choices with a different deadline later, but don't forget you can only have five choices in total.</p>
03/11/25	Internal	Final personal statement draft for Sixth form checkers to start giving second round of feedback.
19/12/25	Internal	All applications to be checked and sent to UCAS
14/01/2026	External	UCAS application deadline. Applications after this date may not be considered for a place.
26/02/26	External	<p>Extra opens</p> <p>If you've used all five choices and are not holding any offers, you may be able to add another choice in your application.</p>
30/06/26	External	<p>(18:00 UK time) Applications received by this deadline will be sent to universities and colleges. Check www.ucas.com to find out deadlines for Art and Design courses.</p> <p>Applicants are advised to apply in good time wherever possible but should not be under pressure to apply early at the expense of making careful and considered choices of courses and institutions.</p> <p>After this time, applications are automatically entered into Clearing.</p>
4/07/26	External	Last day to add an Extra choice in your application.
5/07/26	External	Clearing opens.

		<p>It is in the interest of applicants who are applying late to explain reasons for the delay in the 'personal statement' section of their application.</p> <p>Clearing opens for eligible applicants, and vacancies are displayed in UCAS' search tool. Applicants can release themselves into Clearing. Discover information and advice on our Clearing and Results day pages.</p>
20/10/26	External	Last date to add a Clearing choice.

St Bernard's High School employs a qualified careers advisor. For queries relating to university applications, apprenticeships, and careers. Please ensure you contact the Careers Advisor. Other deadlines apply for conservatoire and Music.

Students are provided with lots of support in preparing for university through our timetabled enrichment programme and the many speakers and events we run in school. Topics include student finance, living away from home, and preparing for university study. If students choose not to study at university, we will help and support them in their applications for their next steps. We want to ensure that students' progress into the pathway that is right for them.

Study Support

Your child will have timetabled study support sessions, held in a dedicated room under the supervision of a Study Support Coordinator supported by the Head of Sixth Form. These are formal, scheduled lessons, and attendance is compulsory — failure to attend will be treated as truancy and will lead to a sanction.

The purpose of these sessions is to foster strong independent learning habits by providing a calm, focused environment where students can work productively. It's a valuable opportunity for them to develop the study skills essential for success both now and in the future.

Go 4 Schools

You can track your child's progress in real time through Go 4 Schools. In addition, we encourage you to take advantage of the parent consultation evenings scheduled after report publication — a valuable opportunity to receive direct, personalised feedback from your child's teachers.



Revision Evolution: Supporting Your Child with Revision

Starting Year 13 can be a big adjustment for students as they move into the next stage of their educational journey. The assessments they will take along the way are an important part of their journey toward the Year 13 exams. We understand that this can feel overwhelming, but one of the best ways to support your child is by encouraging regular practice. The earlier they start preparing, the more confident they'll feel when the time comes.

Here are a few simple ways you can help your child get ready for assessments:

1. Talk about the importance of revision – Help them understand why it's important to start early and how it will make things easier later on.
2. Create a revision plan – Encourage them to have short, focused revision sessions rather than trying to do too much all at once
3. Help them get organised – Make sure they have the right materials, like flashcards or coloured pens, and a quiet space where they can concentrate. You can also support them with their revision guide to keep them on track.
4. Check in regularly – Keep an eye on their progress and offer support when needed. Regular check-ins can make a big difference, especially during stressful times.
5. Follow up and offer reassurance – After an assessment, ask how it went and offer positive encouragement to help them stay motivated.

By working together, we can help your child build the confidence and skills they need to succeed.

Revision Evolution Methods

Effective revision involves understanding the material, creating revision resources, and testing yourself regularly. Here are the steps:

1. **Understand the work** – Make sure you know what you're expected to learn.
2. **Create revision resources** – Flashcards, mind maps, and mini white boards are great tools.
3. **Use the resources** – Use the revision resources you have made to check your knowledge and identify gaps

4. **Red/Amber/Green** – RAG rate your knowledge so you know what you still need to work on

Remember, **don't cram** at the last minute. Spacing out revision over weeks leads to better retention.

When Should Revision Start?

Starting revision early is one of the most important factors in helping students do well. This also gets them in a good routine. While students have already begun reviewing topics in class, the key to success is consistent and early preparation. By breaking revision into small, manageable chunks now, your child will feel much more confident when the assessments come around.

How to Cope with Assessment Stress

We understand that assessments can cause some nerves, and it's natural for students to feel stressed. However, it's important that they know how to manage these feelings. Here are some tips for both students and parents to help reduce stress:

Advice for Students:

- Talk about stress – If your child is feeling overwhelmed, encourage them to talk to someone about it. Bottling up stress can make things harder.
- Manage your time – Help them avoid getting stuck thinking about what they haven't done. Encourage them to stay organised and focus on the next task.
- Stay healthy – A balanced diet, enough sleep, and regular exercise can really help to reduce stress and improve concentration.
- Ask for help – If your child is struggling to understand something, remind them that help is always available. Teachers are there to support them, and at St Bernard's, we also have an excellent pastoral team, including their Head of Year and Learning Mentors.

By supporting your child and encouraging healthy habits, we can help them manage any stress and perform at their best.

Advice for Parents:

- Recognise signs of stress – Look out for irritability, lack of sleep, or negative behaviour.
- Encourage a balanced routine – Make sure your child gets enough sleep and time to unwind.
- Be flexible with family plans – Remember, the exams will pass, and your child's well-being is the priority.

For more support, you can also explore the following resources:

- [Childline: Coping with Exam Stress](#)
- [The Calm Zone: Exam Stress Guides](#)

At St Bernard's we are proud to have a dedicated pastoral team, including Heads of Year and Learning Mentors, committed to supporting every student's wellbeing and success. If you would like to learn more about the support they offer, please don't hesitate to get in touch. The Learning Support department are also well resources and available to support your child.

What Will My Child Be Assessed On?

Each subject will have its own focus for assessment each term. The following pages outline the topics, dates, and how your child can prepare for each one. Students have access to Microsoft Teams where teachers will post additional resources, practice materials, and key dates.

Additional Important Information:

- **Examinations and Assessments** will typically be held during normal lesson times in the classroom. However, in some cases, they might take place in a different room.
- **Examination Conditions** – When the assessment begins, students must stay silent, follow instructions carefully, and refrain from interrupting. We are preparing our students for future exams and any disruption could result in disqualification.
- **Required Equipment** – Students must bring pens (x2), a sharp pencil, a ruler, rubber, and a calculator, all in a transparent pencil case.

- **Bag and Coat Placement** – Bags should be placed under desks, and coats hung on the backs of chairs.

Subject-Specific Assessment Information

[See attached link](#)

By working together, we can ensure that your child is fully supported as they navigate this important academic period. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact the school.

Good luck to all our Year 13 students!