

Windsor Academy Trust

Threshold Curriculum

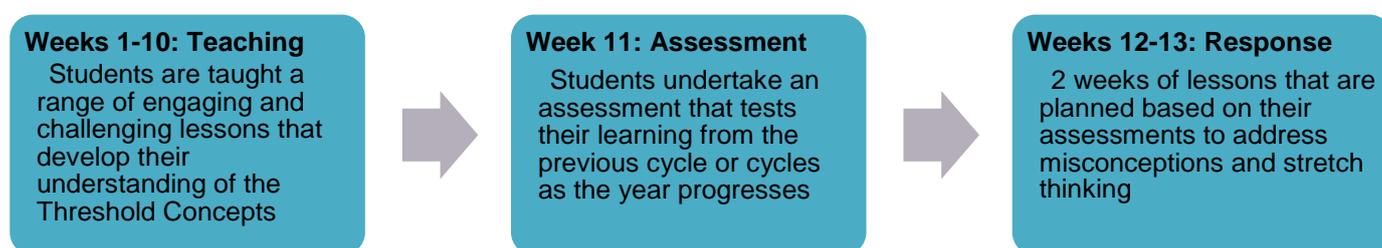
Key Stage 3 Assessment – Guide for Parents



WAT Threshold Curriculum and Assessment

In Year 7 and 8, students study the Windsor Academy Trust Threshold Curriculum. This places the most fundamental parts of each subject at the core of learning in lessons. Students study a variety of challenging and engaging topics that are built around key ideas and skills they need to progress in each subject. These are called the **Threshold Concepts**.

Learning is structured in three cycles throughout each year. Each cycle is composed of three key areas which are outlined below to ensure students are given time to reflect and respond to feedback from assessments.



In most subjects there will be a Key Assessment Task at the end of each cycle. These will be completed during lesson time and different subjects have different formats depending on the most suitable format for the subject. Some subjects (PE, Drama, Music, Art) may assess performance towards achieving the threshold concepts over a range of lessons.

Typically, Key Assessment Tasks will include multiple choice questions, short answer questions, vocabulary questions and questions that assess application through extended writing or problem-solving. They will also test learning from previous cycles as this has been shown to help students remember what they have learnt in the long-term.

The aim of the task is to determine the extent to which the Threshold Concepts have been understood and support students in their learning of the Threshold Concepts.

Scoring of Key Assessment Tasks

1. Students will initially receive a percentage score for each KAT from their subject teachers
2. Scaled scores are then assigned based on how each student has performed in the task against all the students in the secondary schools in Windsor Academy Trust in a similar way to national assessments like Key Stage 2 SATs and GCSEs. This is useful as it adjusts a score if a test is particularly challenging; for example, a student may receive 80% in a task but the task may have been quite difficult and when compared, it may be that 80% was one of the highest scores. This would then be given a high scaled score
3. Scaled scores are between 80 and 122 inclusive, similar to the scores given for Key Stage 2 (KS2) SATs in Year 6, with higher scaled scores representing better performance in KATs

Feedback / Response

Students will receive feedback during their lessons, as part of the third phase of the learning cycle. Therefore whatever the scores achieved, students will have the opportunity to reflect on their work and complete tasks that will aim to close any gaps in their knowledge in the last two weeks of each cycle.