



CULCHETH
HIGH SCHOOL
› THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

Year 8 QMA Parent Handbook 2026 - 2027

› RESPECT
› HONESTY
› EXCELLENCE



Year 8 QMA Calendar 2026 - 2027

School Week		Eng	Ma	Sci	His	Gg	RE	Fr	Sp	Ar	Dr	Mu	Com	D&T
1	3 Sep													
2	7 Sept													
3	14 Sept													
4	21 Sept													
5	28 Sept													
6	5 Oct									QMA1				
7	12 Oct				QMA1							QMA1		DT1
8	19 Oct		QMA1	QMA1				QMA1			QMA1	QMA1	QMA1	FD1
9	2 Nov	QMA1					QMA1		QMA1					
10	9 Nov													
11	16 Nov					QMA1								FD2
12	23 Nov													
13	30 Nov													DT2
14	7 Dec													
15	14 Dec													
16	6 Jan													
17	11 Jan				QMA2							QMA2		
18	18 Jan					QMA2						QMA2		
19	25 Jan									QMA2				
20	1 Feb	QMA2		QMA2			QMA2							DT1
21	8 Feb		QMA2					QMA2	QMA2					FD1
22	22 Feb										QMA2			
23	1 Mar													
24	8 Mar													FD2
25	15 Mar													
26	22 Mar												QMA3	DT2
27	12 Apr													
28	19 Apr					QMA3				QMA3				
29	26 Apr				QMA3							QMA3		
30	4 May	QMA3							QMA3			QMA3		
31	10 May		QMA3	QMA3				QMA3			QMA3			
32	17 May						QMA3							DT1
33	24 May													
34	7 June													FD1
35	14 June													
36	21 June													
37	28 June													FD2
38	5 July													
39	12 July													DT2
40	19 July													

- QMAs will take place on the week shown or very soon after.
- Teachers will make revision or preparation materials available before QMAs.
- QMAs will be reported home in the Achievement and Progress Reports.
- Year 8 Parents' Evenings take place in Week 7, 28 and 29.
- Year 8 Achievement and Progress Reports will be sent home in Week 13, 26 and 36.
- Design and Technology is delivered in 3 curriculum project blocks: Food plus two other D&T projects.
- There will be two QMAs in each Design and Technology block.

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Year 8 QMA Task Descriptions 2026-2027

English	Mathematics	Science
QMA1 - Written Examination: This formal assessment evaluates students on the core concepts and skills introduced during their first Y8 English Unit (<i>Poetry of Place and People</i>), and Unit Two (<i>Fiction Writing Booster</i>), alongside foundational knowledge carried over from Y7. The examination is divided into three assessment areas: 1. Knowledge Acquisition: Retrieval of key unit vocabulary and concepts. 2. Reading Comprehension: Application of critical reading strategies and analysis. 3. Writing Proficiency: Demonstration of structured and technical writing skills.	QMA 1: Written Examination Estimating and Rounding, Sequences	QMA 1: Written Examination One overall written assessment focusing on the first 2 units of science covered – Energy and energy transfers, chemical reactions, as well as practical and analytical skills. See student knowledge organiser for the specific content in the separate topics.
QMA 2 - Written Examination: This formal assessment evaluates students on the core concepts and skills introduced during their third Y8 English Unit (<i>Victorian Literature: Power, Poverty and Protest</i>), alongside foundational knowledge from previous KS3 Units. The examination is divided into three assessment areas: 1. Knowledge Acquisition: Retrieval of key unit vocabulary and concepts. 2. Reading Comprehension: Application of critical reading strategies and analysis. 3. Writing Proficiency: Demonstration of structured and technical writing skills.	QMA 1: Written Examination Exam will include questions on QMA 1 topics plus Coordinates and Linear Graphs, Solving Equations and Percentages	QMA 2: Written Examination One overall written assessment focusing on the second 3 units of science covered – reproduction, waves and environmental chemistry, as well as practical and analytical skills. See student knowledge organiser for the specific content in the separate topics.
QMA 3 - Written Examination: This formal assessment evaluates students on the core concepts and skills introduced during Unit 4 (<i>Non-Fiction Writing Booster</i>) and Unit 5 (<i>Exploring Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet</i>), alongside foundational knowledge from previous KS3 Units. The examination is divided into three assessment areas: 1. Knowledge Acquisition: Retrieval of key unit vocabulary and concepts. 2. Reading Comprehension: Application of critical reading strategies and analysis. 3. Writing Proficiency: Demonstration of structured and technical writing skills.	QMA 1: Written Examination Exam will include questions on QMA 2 topics plus Proportion, Statistics, Averages and Area	QMA 3: Combined science One overall written assessment focusing on the year to date including the most recent unit's food and digestion and sports science, as well as practical and analytical skills. See pupil knowledge organiser for the specific content in the separate topics.

Geography	History	Religious Education
QMA 1: Written Examination Some point marked knowledge questions and some longer mark answers assessing explanation and understanding of processes from Topic 1 'Glaciated Landscapes'.	QMA 1: Written Examination Assessment of the Great Plague 1665, Great Fire of London 1666 and the Industrial Revolution. Students will complete factual recall questions alongside their understanding of key skills such as source utility and interpretation analysis	QMA 1: Written Examination Use knowledge organiser to revise keyword definitions, plus all topics taught up to week 9 on the test.
QMA 2: Written Examination Some point marked knowledge questions and some longer mark answers assessing explanation and understanding of processes from Topic 1 'Glaciated Landscapes' and Topic 2 'Uneven Development'.	QMA 2: Written Examination Revision of the topic of Jack the Ripper and the British Empire. Students will complete factual recall questions alongside developing key skills such as chronology skills, source analysis and interpretation analysis	QMA 2: Written Examination Use knowledge organiser to revise keyword definitions, plus all topics taught up to week 20 on the test.
QMA 3: Written Examination Some point marked knowledge questions and some longer mark answers assessing explanation and understanding of processes from Topic 1 'Glaciated Landscapes', Topic 2 'Uneven Development' and Topic 3 'Impossible Places'.	QMA 3: Written Examination Students will be assessed on Women's suffrage and the causes of WWI. They will complete factual recall questions, key definition recall as well key skill such as interpretation analysis and an extended writing piece	QMA 3: Written Examination Use knowledge organiser to revise keyword definitions, plus all topics taught up to week 32 on the test.

French	Spanish	Computing
QMA 1: Speaking and Translation Module 1: Holidays (past and present tenses)	QMA 1: Reading and translation test Topic 1 of Mira 2 – free time and friends.	QMA 1: Written Examination Binary & Hexadecimal Conversions, Binary addition, multiplication and division
QMA 2: Listening, Reading, Translation and Short Writing Module 1: Holidays (past and present tenses) Module 2: Celebrations (food, present and near future tenses) Module 3: Leisure activities (TV programmes, use of technology, cinema, sports, past, present and near future tenses)	QMA 2: Listening and reading test Topic 1-3 of Mira 2 – free time and friends, out and about, holidays.	QMA 2: Practical and Written Assessment Multiple Choice Questions relating to advanced formulae in a spreadsheet model as well as creating a model designed for a specific end user
QMA 3: Listening, Reading, Translation and Short Writing Module 1: Holidays (past and present tenses) Module 2: Celebrations (food, present and near future tenses) Module 3: Leisure activities (TV programmes, use of technology, cinema, sports, past, present and near future tenses) Module 4: Where you live (weather, house chores, daily routine, modal verbs, past, present and near future tenses)	QMA 3: Speaking & reading tests Topic 1-5 of Mira 2 – free time and friends, out and about, holidays, food and clothing.	QMA 3: Written Assessment Multiple Choice Questions relating to Network structures and data storage, threats to and prevention methods for Networks and Searching and Sorting algorithms.

Food Preparation and Nutrition	Design and Technology	Art
Food QMA 1: Written Evaluation Topic Written Test covering the following areas: • Hygiene and Safety • Equipment • Cooking Methods • Factors Affecting Food Choice • Life stages • Functions of ingredients • Food Science • Food Waste	QMA 1: Written Assessment It's About Time 1 Written assessment focusing on research and literacy skills. Students produce a written essay on the history of clocks.	QMA 1: Practical Assessment An oil pastel study in the style of Dawn Eaton focussing on colour, tone and the capabilities of oil pastels.
Food QMA 2: Practical Assessment Students will plan their own dish suitable for a selected brief. They will need to research dishes and plan their own practical.	QMA 2: Practical Assessment It's About Time 2 Final assessment of completed practical outcome focusing on skills with safely marking out, shaping, forming and assembling a working product using polymers (plastics) and manufactured board.	QMA 2: Practical Assessment A final outcome using 2D media and materials to demonstrate knowledge and understanding in manipulating materials to create a final composition in the style of an artist craftsperson or designer.
	QMA 1: Written Assessment Making Sense 1 Producing a component reference chart including symbols, illustrations and functions of components used in the sensor circuit.	QMA 3: Practical Assessment Practical and written assessment demonstrating critical understanding of Michael Craig Martin. Work to be presented in the style of the artist.
	QMA 2: Practical Assessment Making Sense 2 Practical assessment of a completed, dark sensing, mood lamp. Focus on creativity, skill and overall presentation.	QMA 4: Practical Assessment A stick and Ink study exploring the formal elements of drawing (line, shape, proportion, 3D, tone, mark-making) whilst drawing a mask.

Drama	Music	Personal Development
QMA 1: Practical Assessment Changing mood and atmosphere on stage. Scripted assessment focusing on ability to learn lines, change atmosphere on stage and speak chorally as an ensemble.	QMA 1: Composition and Performance Samba composition and performance. Students compose a Samba piece in groups using rhythm grids, which they use to lead a class performance.	QMA 1: Diagnostic Assessment End of Module assessment based on understanding of PSHE content covered in the module.
QMA 2: Practical Assessment Social theatre scripted extract. Naturalistic style text explored and performed in ensembles of 10.	QMA 2: Performance Twelve Bar Blues. Students perform (on piano) the Blues Tune Twelve Bar Blues chord pattern and Walking Bass Improvisation using the blues scale.	QMA 2: Diagnostic Assessment Mid-Module assessment based on understanding of Careers and Enterprise and Citizenship content covered in the module.
QMA 3: Written Assessment Willy Russell's 'Our Day Out' play text. Introduction to writing for drama, initially focusing on costume and set design. Also, developing answers for performance evaluation of self and others.	QMA 3: Composition and Performance Composition - Film Music composition. Students compose the music to a film trailer adding music, sound effects and hit points throughout.	