

STEPPING UP TO GCSEs



Parent
Connect

- ▶ Attendance
- ▶ Pastoral Matters
- ▶ New GCSEs, study support & revision
- ▶ Aspiration
- ▶ Importance of mock exams
- ▶ Q&As

TONIGHT'S TOPICS

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted upwards from left to right, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

- ▶ Many parents feel at a loss when their children enter Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11.
- ▶ You are not alone!
- ▶ The exam system has changed greatly over the last few years and is continuing to change.
- ▶ Sometimes it may feel as if it is best just to let the “experts” at your child’s school get on with it.....

COMMON FRUSTRATIONS FOR PARENTS



- ▶ *“The more parents are engaged in the education of their children, the more likely their children are to succeed in the education system. School improvement research consistently shows that parental engagement is one of the key factors in securing higher student achievement. The scale of the impact is evident across all social classes and all ethnic groups.”*

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REPORT 156
SEPTEMBER 2011

- ▶ You don't need to be an expert in any of the subjects your child chooses.
- ▶ You don't have to become a super parent.
- ▶ You don't need to give up your own life and responsibilities.
- ▶ You just need to know how best to spend the time you do have , at each stage of the process.
- ▶ You are the expert on your child!

THE GOOD NEWS!

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel white lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right, set against a blue background.

- ▶ If your child's attendance is 100% they are more likely to gain or exceed their minimum target for achievement
- ▶ If their attendance falls below 90% they are more likely to achieve one grade below their target
- ▶ If attendance falls below 80% students are likely to achieve two grades below their minimum target grade

ATTENDANCE

- ▶ A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students
- ▶ Anyone arriving in college in non-uniform clothing will be given the opportunity to rectify the situation or will be in internal exclusion
- ▶ Students are expected to wear FULL school uniform to and from college
- ▶ A coat, that can be put in a locker, is recommended for the coming colder months

PASTORAL MATTERS: UNIFORM

- ▶ All GCSEs have new content and a new grading system.
- ▶ English & Maths started in 2015
- ▶ Science, Languages, Humanities, Arts, PE and Food & Nutrition started in 2016
- ▶ Design and Technology, Child Development and Information Technologies started in 2017

REVISED GCSEs, STUDY SUPPORT & REVISION

New Grading	Approximate equivalent
9	A*
8	A/A*
7	A
6	B
5 Strong pass	High C
4 Standard pass	Low C
3	D
2	E
1	F/G

NEW GRADING SYSTEM
APPLIES TO ALL GCSE QUALIFICATIONS

- ▶ All GCSE exams are taken at the end of Year 11
- ▶ Controlled assessments have been removed and replaced in some subjects by Non Exam Assessments (NEA's)
- ▶ Increasing standards are being expected in exams and NEA's
- ▶ Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG) are an integral part of all assessments

RECENT CHANGES TO GCSE QUALIFICATIONS

- ▶ Great reliance on recall (for example; scientific and mathematical formulae need to be learnt, knowledge of set texts).
- ▶ High expectation of literacy, e.g. students must ensure they can spell keywords accurately in each subject.
- ▶ Many exams have questions that require a paragraph as an answer rather than one sentence.

RECENT CHANGES TO GCSE QUALIFICATIONS

- ▶ Applies to
 - ▶ Maths
 - ▶ Science
 - ▶ Languages
- ▶ Tiers of entry are based on performance over the course and then following the mock exams in Year 11

TIERS OF ENTRY

Grade range for tiers of entry		
9		Higher Tier
8		
7		
6		
5 Strong pass	Foundation Tier	
4 Standard pass		
3		
2		
1		

- ▶ These qualifications are equivalent to a GCSE but have a more vocational approach to learning.
- ▶ More emphasis on Non-Exam Assessments, but still have an external exam which may take place at the end of Year 11 or during the two year course
- ▶ Strict deadlines which must be kept
- ▶ Graded as Distinction(*)/Merit/Pass at Level 1 or 2

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

- ▶ A Level 2 pass is a standard pass
- ▶ A Level 2 merit is a strong pass
- ▶ Our technical qualifications are;
 - ▶ Child Development
 - ▶ Health & Social Care
 - ▶ Hospitality & Catering
 - ▶ Textiles
 - ▶ Graphics
 - ▶ Vocational Business Studies

Grade	Approximate GCSE equivalent
Level 2 Distinction *	8/9
Level 2 Distinction	7
Level 2 Merit	5/6
Level 2 Pass	4
Level 1 Distinction	3
Level 1 Merit	2
Level 1 Pass	1

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

- ▶ It is an opportunity
 - ▶ To get used to working in exam conditions and under time pressures
 - ▶ To understand the rules!
- ▶ Results are used for
 - ▶ Targeted support and mentoring
 - ▶ Post 16 applications and references
 - ▶ Decisions about tiers of entry where relevant
 - ▶ Providing evidence for exam concessions



MOCK EXAMS – 29TH APRIL 2019

- ▶ Students will have a target grade for all their examined subjects.
- ▶ Targets will be based on their Key Stage 2 SATs data.
- ▶ Targets will be aspirational.
- ▶ Targets will appear on all reports alongside working at grades and an end of course predicted grade.

TARGET GRADES



- ▶ GCSE exams will test students' ability to demonstrate a deep understanding of topics, often in an unfamiliar situation
- ▶ Students need to have a secure body of knowledge on which they can build understanding.
- ▶ Focus in lessons and during study skills sessions.

DEEP LEARNING



- ▶ **Get them to school, every day on time.....**
- ▶ 95% attendance is half a day of lessons missed every two weeks – two weeks of lessons missed per year – 50 hours of lessons.
- ▶ Subject content may only be covered once – the process of revision does assume that the content of the subject has been learnt in the first place.
- ▶ Every lesson counts

TOP TIP #1

- ▶ **Build good relationships with your child's teachers, tutor and Head of House.**
- ▶ Attend parents' information evenings/progress reviews.
- ▶ Explain clearly what you would like their help with.
- ▶ Make sure they know you are happy to be contacted.
- ▶ Keep contact details up to date.

TOP TIP #2

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- ▶ **Work with your child and school to ensure you understand the course structure and requirements.**
- ▶ Know the key dates and deadlines for Non-Exam Assessments.
- ▶ Put them in your diary so you can support your child before the “panic stage”.

TOP TIP #3

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- ▶ **Help your child get organised.**
- ▶ Create a work area and ensure they have all the materials and resources they need.
- ▶ Agree expectations of how much work they should be doing and the best time to do it.

TOP TIP #4

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- ▶ **Set homework rules.**
- ▶ Gently probe further if they are “not getting any homework” – they will be!
- ▶ Check on the e-planner/email teachers

TOP TIP #5

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- ▶ **Your most important role, as always, is to encourage and praise your child.**
- ▶ Show an interest by talking to them about what they are learning in different subjects and in their homework tasks.
- ▶ Remember you don't need to be an expert.

TOP TIP #6

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- ▶ Autumn 1 – Sexual Health/E-Safety/Mental Health & Wellbeing
- ▶ Autumn 2 – Work related learning
- ▶ Spring 1 – Study Skills/Mental Health & Wellbeing
- ▶ Spring 2 – Drugs/Alcohol/Parenting/Ethics
- ▶ Summer 1 – Financial Management
- ▶ Summer 2 – Work related learning – work experience preparation

IAG – INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE



- ▶ Learning Review Day – 14th February 2019
- ▶ Year 10 Mock Exams – 29th April 2019
- ▶ Year 10 Parents Evening – 16th May 2019
- ▶ Work Experience - 1st July 2019

KEY DATES 2018/19



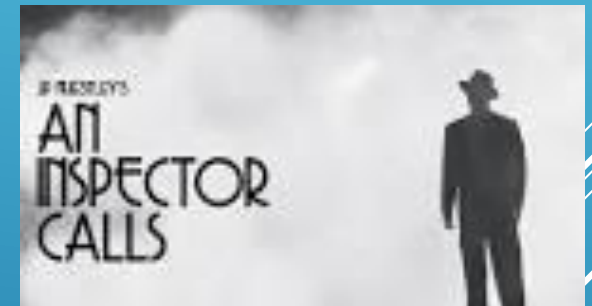
- ▶ Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Students write their own description or story.
- ▶ Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time. Students write their own opinion piece.
- ▶ Please support your child by ensuring they check homework carefully for SPaG errors.

ENGLISH LANG

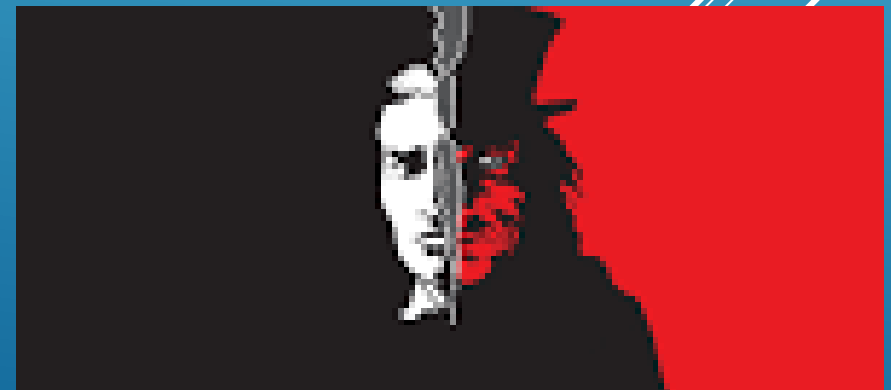


the guardian

- ▶ The English Literature GCSE encourages students to read a wide range of classic literature fluently. A closed book exam.
- ▶ Paper 1: Shakespeare (Macbeth) and the Nineteenth Century Novel (Jekyll & Hyde).
- ▶ Paper 2: Modern Texts (An Inspector Calls) and Poetry (Selection of poetry since 1789 including representative Romantic poems – Power & Conflict Cluster)
- ▶ There will be assessment of unseen poetry and the quality of writing in the response to texts will be assessed.



LITERATURE



- ▶ Download the free Guardian newspaper app to their phone
- ▶ Read news articles
- ▶ Buy a revision guide (available from reception)
- ▶ Create mind maps/knowledge organisers for each topic and different question types, keep returning to them
- ▶ Check Spelling, punctuation and grammar as second nature
- ▶ Download the free LitChart app to their phone
- ▶ Learn by heart key quotations
- ▶ BBCBitesize on line for Lit & Lang
- ▶ Sparknotes on line for Literature support

ENGLISH REVISION



- ▶ 3 papers – 1 non calculator and 2 calculator
- ▶ 80 marks each (1hr 30)
- ▶ Problem solving themes throughout
- ▶ Multi-step questions

MATHS – THE NEW GCSE

- ✓ Revisiting classwork to ensure understanding
- ✓ Videos – Corbettmaths.com
- ✓ MathsWatch – coming soon

- ✓ Revision guides – available from school
- ✓ Scientific Calculator – available from school

MATHS – HOW YOU CAN HELP

An updated version of our complete user guide 'Welcome to MathsWatch' is now available from EXTRAS...

[More Info](#)

Clip 33 Simplifying - Addition and Subtraction

One Minute Maths

Interactive Questions

Worksheet

Clip 33

SIMPLIFYING ADDITION and SUBTRACTION

Find a Clip

Qualification

Tier

Grade

Topic

Search

Choose Clip (65)

Clip	Title
7	Introduction to Algebraic Conventions
8	Coordinates
33	Simplifying - Addition and Subtraction
34	Simplifying - Multiplication
35	Simplifying - Division
36	Function Machines
37	Generating a Sequence - Term to Term
38	Expanding Brackets

Science Resources



- Specifications

- Revision guides

- Exam questions



- Physics equation sheet (students need to know these and use them)

- Periodic Table (students need to use this)

- Wednesday Revision Sessions

- Focus E Learning Practical Simulations



Science Revision Resources

(for sale in reception)



Combined
Revision
Guides (£6)



Triple science revision
guides (£3.50),
workbooks (£3.50)
and answer books
(£1.50)



Combined
Workbooks
(£6)



Combined
Answer Books
(£1.50)



Exam Specifications

- Combined (£2.10)
- Biology (£1.10)
- Chemistry (£1.15)
- Physics (£1.15)

Educake

Science teachers have given students individual logins to complete HW or for revision.

Educake is for homework and revision. You can...

- 1 Answer questions your teacher has set you
- 2 Set yourself tests for revision
- 3 View your test results
- 4 See how well you know each topic

GCSE Science Performance

	Percentage Correct	Questions Answered
Biology	9%	0
Chemistry	9%	0
Physics	78%	27

Performance By Question Type

	Percentage Correct	Questions Answered
Recall	82%	75
Application	69%	39
Calculations	68%	10
Diagrams and Graphs	73%	16
How Science Works	100%	2

Adam's Strongest and Weakest Topics

Adam has done best on Collecting Energy from The Sun (100% correct), Energy Resources (89% correct), and Generating Electricity 2 (84% correct).

In contrast, Adam's performance has been weakest on Energy Changes (58% correct), Energy Changes in Systems (61% correct), and Energy Sources (62% correct).

Practical Simulation Subscription

Login at www.focuselearning.co.uk using the following login details.

- Username: student@bideford30939
- Password: 0xmz8yyup

Once logged in select Physics, Biology or Chemistry Required Practicals

Then select AQA and complete the practicals, these are required to be completed by the exam board as they will write questions about these in the exams.

