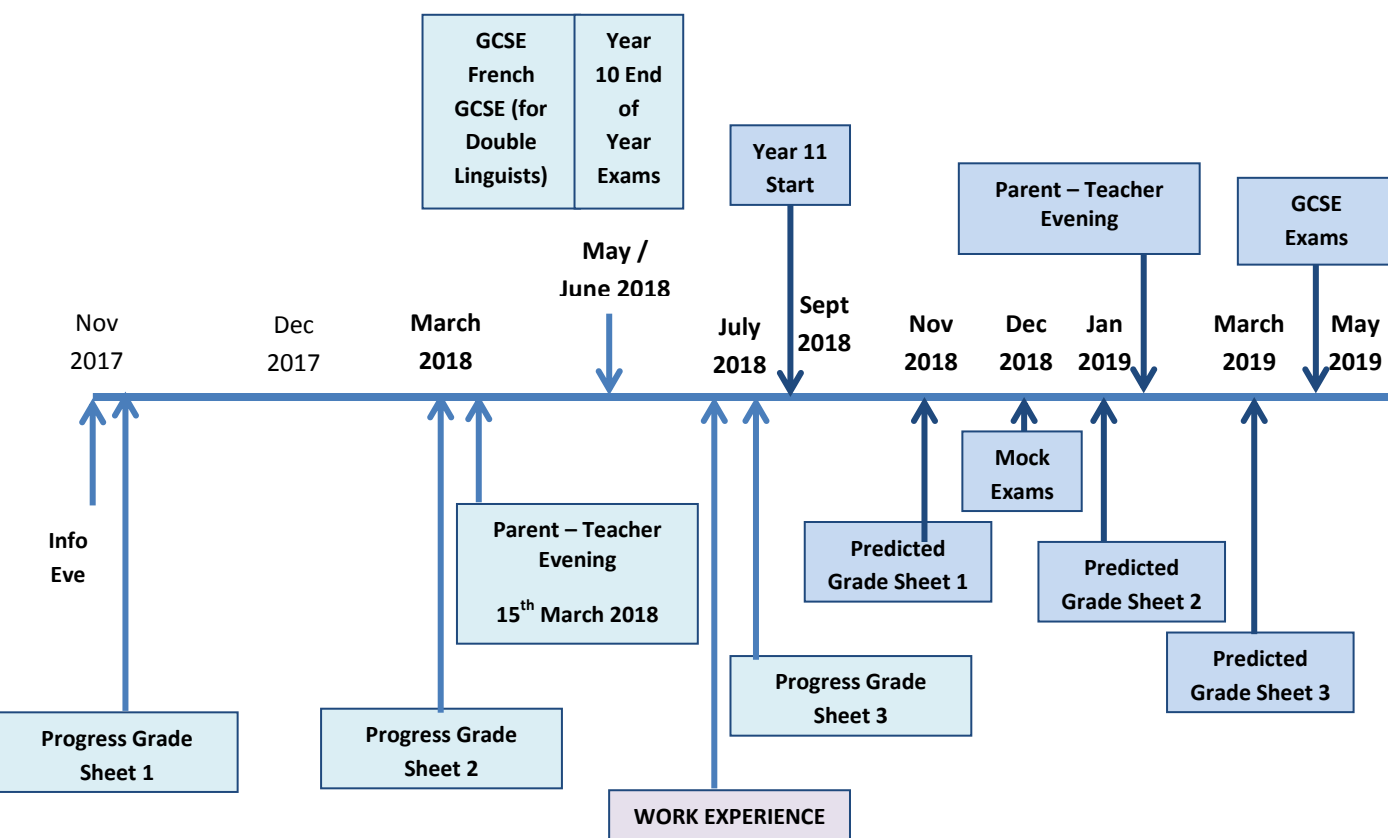


Key Dates in preparation for examinations in 2019



During Year 10 teachers will be awarding progress grades – these reflect a currently attainment grade based upon work covered to date. The grade will be based upon assessments that have occurred. In Year 11 teachers issue a predicted grade along with a progress grade. The predicted grade takes into account all previous assessments and predicts a final grade based upon anticipated progress and improvements.

Along with progress grades, students are issued with attitude to learning grades – effort, behaviour and homework on an A-D grade scale. Descriptors for these can be found with the gradesheets issued.

Internal and External Examinations

In June 2018 Year 10 students sit internal examination for all of their subjects. These will be completed under examination conditions - this will help prepare the students for the Year 11 mock exams and ultimately the final GCSE's in the summer of 2019.

For both the Year 10 and Year 11 mock examinations parents will be informed of the arrangements in good time. These exams are extremely important – they provide an accurate assessment of progress, provide vital feedback and allow students to practise their examination techniques.

KS4 Courses – to be examined summer 2019

Subject	Exam Board	Syllabus Title / Code	Syllabus
Art	Edexcel	Art and Design / 1AD0	Link
Business	NCFE	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Business and Enterprise	Link
Biology (Triple Science)	AQA	GCSE Biology / 8461	Link
Chemistry (Triple Science)	AQA	GCSE Chemistry / 8462	Link
Computing	OCR	Computing (from 2016) / J276	Link
Drama	Edexcel	Drama (2016) / 1DRO	Link
English Language	OCR	English Language (9-1) / J351	Link
English Literature	OCR	English Literature (9-1) / J352	Link
French	AQA	French / 8658	Link
Geography	Edexcel	Geography / 1GAO	Link
German	AQA	German / 8668	Link
History	AQA	History / 8145	Link
Maths	Edexcel	Maths (9-1) from 2015 / 1MA1	Link
Music	AQA	Music / 8271	Link
PE	AQA	PE / 8582	Link
Physics (Triple Science)	AQA	GCSE Physics / 8463	Link
Science (Trilogy)	AQA	GCSE Combined Science / 8464	Link
Spanish	AQA	Spanish / 8698	Link
XL / Achieve	Princes Trust	Level 1 Certificate In Personal Development and Employability Skills	Link

Core Subject Information

English Language (9-1)	
Exam Board - OCR	Syllabus Code – J351
	Spelling, vocabulary choices and grammar are worth 20% of this qualification.
Recommended Text / Support	<p>OCR English Language Student Book 1, Carter, Charles and O'Doherty, OUP. ISBN: 978-0-19-833278-7. £16.99 (not available through school).</p> <p>OCR GCSE English Language: Student Book 2: Assessment preparation, Carter, Charles and O'Doherty, OUP. ISBN: 9780198332794. £16.99 (not available through school). Amazon LINK</p> <p>School Website – Year 11 page – English language support documents including the GCSE English Language OCR Guide and The little book of spelling punctuation and grammar (SPaG)</p>

Paper 1

Communicating Information and Ideas

80 Marks 2 Hours

50% of Your Language
GCSE

Section A

Reading Information and Ideas

Non-fiction texts
One 19th century
One 20th/21st century
40 marks for four questions

Section B

Writing for Audience, Impact and Purpose

Non-fiction Writing
Answer one question from a choice of two
40 Marks

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Paper 2

Exploring Effects and Impact

80 Marks 2 Hours

50% of Your Language
GCSE

Section A

Reading Meaning and Effects

Literary texts (one may be non-fiction)
Two 20th and 21st century literary texts
40 marks for four questions

Section B

Writing Imaginatively and Creatively

Narrative Writing
Answer one question from a choice of two
40 Marks

English Literature (9-1)	
Texts covered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Inspector Calls • Great Expectations • Romeo and Juliet or Macbeth • Love and Relationships Poetry (from Anthology) 	
Exam Board - OCR	Syllabus Code – J352
Spelling, vocabulary choices and grammar are worth 20% of this qualification.	
Oxford University Press produce revision guides for 'Great Expectations', 'An Inspector Calls' and the different Shakespeare plays. These are £8.99 on the OUP site. Please note that they are not designed specifically for the GCSE 9–1 syllabus/examinations but are useful revision aids for the texts themselves.	
Amazon LINK (for Great Expectations)	
Recommended Text / Support	OUP LINK
All students will be given an individual password and link to the OCR Digital Poetry Anthology where they can log-in and complete exercises and do extra reading for the 'Love & Relationships' poetry cluster. This IS a valuable preparation tool. A hard copy of the poetry anthology will be issued at the start of the spring term. Students will be given paper copies of in-house made guides that are also linked to the Year 11 area of the school website.	

Paper 1

Exploring Modern and Literary Heritage Texts

80 Marks 2 Hours

50% Of Your Literature GCSE

Section A

Modern Prose or Drama – ‘An Inspector Calls’

Comparison of extracts – one an unseen
An extended response on the whole text
40 marks

Section B

19th Century Prose – ‘Great Expectations’

Answer one question from a choice of two
Extract-based or extended response
40 marks

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Paper 2

Exploring Poetry and Shakespeare

80 Marks 2 Hours

50% Of Your Literature GCSE

Section A

Poetry: Towards a World Unknown – one cluster

Comparison of poems across time and continent:
one from the cluster, one unseen, linked by theme
Explore a poem: student choice from cluster
40 marks

Section B

Shakespeare – ‘Romeo and Juliet’ or ‘Macbeth’

Answer one question from a choice of two
Extract-based or extended response
40 marks

Maths (9-1) from 2015	
Exam Board – Edexcel Pearson	Syllabus Code – 1MA1
<p>Main topic areas covered -</p> <p>1 Number 2 Algebra 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change 4 Geometry and measures 5 Probability 6 Statistics</p> <p>At William Ellis the teaching of GCSE maths starts in Year 9 to facilitate a substantial period of lesson time to structured revision. Students are prepared for entry to GCSE mathematics through the practice of skills and development of techniques.</p> <p>The Mathematics GCSE syllabus and assessment is offered at two levels, Foundation and Higher. Students are placed into a teaching group which provides the most suitable course of study for them. When selecting a teaching group for a student, both achievement and progress made is taken into consideration. Teaching groups are reviewed throughout the year.</p>	
<p>Recommended Text / Support</p>	<p>Revision guide books can be purchased at school. They all have the digital version of the textbook (Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics: Higher Student Book (Edexcel GCSE Maths 2015))</p> <p>School Textbook Amazon LINK</p> <p>MyMaths website - LINK</p> <p>Maths Genie website - LINK</p> <p>Corbettmaths website - LINK</p>

Biology Triple Science	
Exam Board - AQA	Syllabus Code 8461
<p>Main topics covered during course -</p> <p>1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology 8. Key ideas</p> <p>There are 2 written papers at the end of the course. Each worth 50% of the final grade. Paper 1 covers topics 1-4 Paper 2 covers topics 5-8</p>	
<p>Recommended Text / Support</p>	<p>Websites - Doodlelearn and Kerboodle (digital version of school text book available) Revision book available from science office – details below AQA GCSE Biology All-in-One Revision and Practice (Collins GCSE 9-1 Revision) Paperback by Collins GCSE (Author) ISBN-13: 978-0008160678</p> <p>Amazon LINK</p>

Chemistry (Triple Science Students)	
Exam Board - AQA	Syllabus Code 8462
<p>Main topics covered during course –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources <p>There are 2 written papers at the end of the course. Each worth 50% of the final grade. Paper 1 covers topics 1-5 Paper 2 covers topics 6-10</p>	
Recommended Text / Support	<p>Websites - Doodlelearn and Kerboodle (digital version of school text book available) Revision book available from science office – details below AQA GCSE Chemistry All-in-One Revision and Practice (Collins GCSE 9-1 Revision) Paperback by Collins GCSE (Author) ISBN-13: 978-0008160753</p> <p>Amazon LINK</p>

Physics (Triple Science Students)	
Exam Board - AQA	Syllabus Code 8463
<p>Main topics covered during course -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure 5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism and electromagnetism 8. Space physics (physics only) <p>There are 2 written papers at the end of the course. Each worth 50% of the final grade. Paper 1 covers topics 1-4 Paper 2 covers topics 5-8</p>	
Recommended Text / Support	<p>Websites - Doodlelearn and Kerboodle (digital version of school text book available) Revision book available from science office – details below AQA GCSE Physics All-in-One Revision and Practice (Collins GCSE 9-1 Revision) Paperback by Collins GCSE (Author) ISBN-13: 978-0008160739</p> <p>Amazon LINK</p>

Science – Combined Science : Trilogy

Exam Board - AQA

Syllabus Code 8464

Your son will have 3 science teachers – one for each specialism. Students are awarded 2 GCSE grades at the end of the course. Main topics covered during course –

Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

Chemistry

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes
13. The rate and extent of chemical change
14. Organic chemistry
15. Chemical analysis
16. Chemistry of the atmosphere
17. Using resources

Physics

18. Energy
19. Electricity
20. Particle model of matter
21. Atomic structure
22. Forces
23. Waves
24. Magnetism and electromagnetism

There are 2 written papers at the end of the course. Each worth **16.7%** of the final grade.

Biology Paper 1 covers topics 1-4

Biology Paper 2 covers topics 5-7

Chemistry Paper 1 covers topics 8-12

Chemistry Paper 2 covers topics 13-17

Physics Paper 1 covers topics 18-21

Physics Paper 2 covers topics 22-24

Recommend
ed Text /
Support

Websites - Doodlelearn and Kerboodle (digital version of school text book available)
Revision book available from science office – details below
AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy Higher All-in-One Revision and Practice (Collins GCSE 9-1 Revision) Paperback – 31 Aug 2016 by [Collins GCSE](#) (Author) ISBN-13: 978-0008160869

Amazon [LINK](#)

French / German

Students will have 4 areas of assessment - listening, reading, speaking and writing. Will cover all topics in the course. All vocab, revision tasks etc are available on kerboodle to aid revision or if they've missed part of the course for some reason. They also have a speaking booklet with questions which they should have been preparing and practicing.

Regular vocabulary tests take place in class as well as internal assessments to track progress (as highlighted above)

Paper 1 Listening (25%) – taken in the summer of year 11

- 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)
- (Each exam included 5 minutes of reading time to read the question before the audio is played).
- There are two parts to the exam:
 - i. Section A – questions in English (to be answered in English or non-verbally i.e. writing a letter)
 - ii. Section B – questions in French (to be answered in French or non-verbally)

Paper 2 Speaking (25%) – taken before the Easter holidays in year 11

- 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks for both
- There are three parts to the exam:
 - i. Role-Play (15 marks, 2 minutes per tier)
 - ii. Photo card (15 marks, 2 minutes at Foundation and 3 minutes at Higher)
 - iii. General conversation (30 marks, 3-5 minutes at Foundation and 5-7 minutes at Higher)

Paper 3 Reading (25%) – taken in the summer of year 11

- 45 minutes (Foundation tier) and one hour (Higher tier)
- 60 marks for both papers
- There are three parts:
 - i. Section A – questions in English (to be answered in English or non-verbally)
 - ii. Section B - questions in French (to be answered in French or non-verbally)
 - iii. Section C – translation from French into English

Paper 4 Writing (25%) – taken in the summer of year 11

- one hour (Foundation) or one hour and fifteen minutes (Higher)
- 50 marks at foundation and 60 marks at higher
- Foundation tier:
 - i. Question 1 – respond to a photo (four sentences)
 - ii. Question 2 – 40 words responding to 4 bullet points
 - iii. Question 3 – translation from English into French
 - iv. Question 4 – 90 words responding to 4 bullet points. There will be a choice of two questions.
- Higher tier:
 - i. Question 1 - 90 words responding to 4 bullet points. There will be a choice of two questions.
 - ii. Question 2 – 150 words responding to 2 bullet points. There will be a choice of two questions.
 - iii. Question 3 – translation from English into French.

You will be entered for either foundation or higher exams. You must do the same tier for all four papers. The final decision on the tier that you will do will be taken after the year 11 mock exam and will be based predominately on your results from the internal assessments throughout the course.

advice etc) **www.kerboodle**.

Homework booklets with key grammar support (used throughout KS3) can be found on the website.

Textbook: AQA French / German (higher and foundation)

Useful websites for support and extension:

- www.languagesonline.org.uk
- www.kerboodle.com * (KS4 – includes access to the textbook, tasks covering all four skills, advice, lists of core vocabulary and tasks to practise it). This is a key resource for learning throughout the course and for revision.
- www.aqa.org.uk – past papers and mark schemes
- memrise (app) – to practise and consolidate vocabulary

*please ask the teacher for your individual username and password

Geography	
Exam Board - Edexcel	Syllabus Code 1GA0 (Geography A 2016)
<p>There are 3 written papers at the end of the course. First 2 papers are worth 37.5 of the final grade, with the third paper worth 25%</p> <p>Course content overview</p> <p>Component 1 The Physical Environment (Exam Paper 1) <i>This content was covered in Year 10</i></p> <p>Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK – including 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes, 1B: River landscapes and processes</p> <p>Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change</p> <p>Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management</p> <p>Component 2 The Human Environment (Exam Paper 2)</p> <p>Topic 4: Changing cities</p> <p>Topic 5: Global development</p> <p>Topic 6: Resource management – including optional sub-topics from which students choose one from two, 6A: Energy resource management and 6B: Water resource management</p> <p>Component 3 Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges (Exam Paper 3)</p> <p>Topic 7: Geographical investigations – fieldwork</p> <p>Topic 8: Geographical investigations – UK challenges</p>	
<p>Recommended Text / Support</p>	<p>Text book - Edexcel GCSE A Tomorrows Geography Revision book - Edexcel Geography A Revision workbook (available from Geog.dept.) ISBN-13: 978-1471861253</p> <p>Amazon LINK</p>

History	
Exam Board - AQA	Syllabus Code 8145
<p>There are 2 written papers at the end of the course. Each worth 50% of the final grade.</p> <p>Paper 1: Understanding the modern world</p> <p>Section A: Period studies</p> <p>1D America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality</p> <p>Section B: Wider world depth studies</p> <p>Conflict and tension, 1894–1918</p> <p>Paper 2: Shaping the nation</p> <p>Section A: Thematic studies</p> <p>2C Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day</p> <p>Section B: British depth studies including the historic environment</p> <p>Norman England, c1066–c1100</p>	
<p>Recommended Text / Support</p>	<p>My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) History Paperback – 24 Nov 2017 by Tim Jenner (Author), David Ferriby (Author), Simon Beale (Author), Carmel Bones (Author), Adele Fletcher (Author), Lizzy James (Author)</p> <p>Amazon LINK</p> <p>The book is NOT released NOVEMBER 2017</p>

Music	
Exam Board - AQA	Syllabus Code 8271
<p>The areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language. The four areas of study can also provide a rich source of material for your students to work with when developing performance and composition skills.</p> <p>There are four areas of study:</p> <p>1 Western classical tradition 1650–1910 – study piece Haydn: Symphony 101 in D major The Clock, movt. 2 Popular music Study pieces from the Beatles 3 Traditional music – Study piece Santana: Supernatural 4 Western classical traditions since 1910. Study piece - Aaron Copland: Saturday Night Waltz and Hoedown from Rodeo.</p> <p>There are 3 assessed components to Music GCSE, 1 written examination and 2 practical components. Component 1 – Understanding music - written exam paper (40% of final grade) Component 2 – Music performance (30%) – Solo and Ensemble performance Component 3 – Composition (30%) – Composition to a brief and a free composition</p>	
Main Topics / Tasks / Exam Work	<p>The Beatles study pieces I Get by With a Little Help from my Friends Within You, Without You Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds</p> <p>Link to student guide online - http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/music/AQA-8271-STUDENT-GUIDE-AOS2.PDF</p>
	<p>Haydn Clock Symphony Second Movement Santana Study pieces - traditional music. http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/music/AQA-8271-STUDENT-GUIDE-AOS3.PDF</p>
	<p>20th century study pieces - http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/music/AQA-8271-STUDENT-GUIDE-AOS4.PDF</p>
	<p>The links above are to the AQA produced student guides. There is also a general GCSE music revision guide published by AQA. Students are encouraged to have copies of this as it helps with their general non-study piece related questions in the exam.</p> <p>There are many music listening question on YouTube. Please search: 'music GCSE practice listening'</p> <p>Mock examination will focus on Listening questions relating to unheard music about all elements of music: Harmony, Tonality, Rhythm, Meter, Tempo, Melody, Texture, Dynamics, Timbre, Instrumentation, Melodic Dictation</p> <p>Long Answer Questions relating to Haydn Clock Symphony and The Beatles Study Pieces.</p>
Recommended Text / Support	

Art	
Exam Board – Edexcel Pearson	Syllabus Code 1AD0
<p>Art and Design equips students with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts throughout their lives, and it has immense value as a GCSE subject. GCSE Art and Design provides the opportunity for students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore both contemporary and historical sources of art, craft and design first hand through, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o visiting museums, galleries, art shows and fairs o experiencing audio-visual productions, including still and moving imagery of their surroundings and environments • take an individual approach to their art, craft and design making • develop the skills of selecting their best and most appropriate work for presentation. <p>There are 2 main components to the GCSE Art qualification</p> <p>Component 1 -Personal Portfolio (60% of final grade)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students produce a portfolio of work demonstrating knowledge, understanding and skills, and comprising supporting studies and personal response(s) • There are 72 marks available for this component • Internally assessed • Externally moderated <p>Component 2 – Externally set assignment (ESA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The culmination of the GCSE course • From an externally-set theme (released on 2 January) • Main period of preparation Spring term • Students have a 10-hour sustained focus period in which to produce personal response(s) – this is the 2 day Art exam – date to be confirmed but will be in May • There are 72 marks available for this component • Internally assessed • Externally moderated 	
Recommended Text / Support	<p>Very strongly encouraged to go & visit galleries first hand.</p> <p>Students will be shown examples of previous students work during lessons. Exemplar work, provided with checklist & week by week suggestions for independent work.</p> <p>Students to use Pinterest as a tool for gathering research for coursework & exam.</p> <p>www.art2day.co.uk – a great resource for artist ideas</p> <p>www.npg.org.uk - National Portrait Gallery</p> <p>www.tate.org.uk - Tate Gallery</p> <p>www.npg.org.uk - The National Portrait Gallery</p> <p>http://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/ - Photographers' Gallery</p> <p>www.nationalgallery.org.uk - The National Gallery</p>

PE	
Exam Board - AQA	Syllabus Code 8582
<p><i>Main topics covered during course -</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Applied anatomy and physiology</i> 2. <i>Movement analysis</i> 3. <i>Physical training</i> 4. <i>Use of data</i> 5. <i>Sports psychology</i> 6. <i>Socio-cultural influences</i> 7. <i>Health, fitness and well-being</i> <p><i>There are 2 written papers at the end of the course. Each worth 30% of the final grade.</i></p> <p>Paper 1 covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Applied anatomy and physiology</i> • <i>Movement analysis</i> • <i>Physical training</i> • <i>Use of data</i> <p>Paper 2 covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sports psychology</i> • <i>Socio-cultural influences</i> • <i>Health, fitness and well-being</i> • <i>Use of data</i> <p>Non examination assessment</p> <p>Practical assessment – worth 30% of the final grade</p> <p><i>Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).</i></p> <p>Analysis and evaluation – worth 10% (written task) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity</p>	
<p><i>Recommended Text / Support</i></p>	<p><i>Revision book - My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) PE 2nd Edition Paperback – 25 Aug 2017 by <u>Kirk Bizley</u> (Author) ISBN-13: 978-1510405233</i></p> <p><i>Amazon LINK</i></p>

Computer Science	
Exam Board - OCR	Syllabus Code J276
<p>There are 2 written papers at the end of the course. Each worth 40% of the final grade.</p> <p>Paper 1 Computer Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems architecture • Memory • Storage • Wired and wireless networks • Network topologies, protocols and layers • System security <p>Paper 2 Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algorithms • Programming techniques • Producing robust programs • Computational logic • Translators and facilities of languages • Data representation <p>Non exam assessment (Programming Project) – worth 20% of the final grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming techniques • Analysis • Design • Development • Testing and evaluation and conclusions 	
<p>Recommended Text / Support</p>	<p>Text book has been issued to the class</p> <p>Recommended revision book –</p> <p>OCR GCSE Computer Science All-in-One Revision and Practice (Collins GCSE 9-1 Revision) Paperback – 25 Aug 2017 by Collins GCSE (Author) ISBN-13: 978-0008227470</p> <p>Amazon LINK</p>

<i>Drama</i>	
<i>Exam Board - Edexcel</i>	<i>Syllabus Code Drama (2016) 1DRO</i>
<p>Component 1: Devising (*Component code: 1DR0/01)</p> <p>Coursework 40% of the qualification – 60 marks Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus (free choice for centre). • Performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance. • Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance. • Performer or designer routes available. 	
<p>Component 2: Performance from Text (*Component code: 1DR0/02)</p> <p>Coursework 20% of the qualification – 48 marks Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text. • Centre choice of performance text. • Performer or designer routes available 	
<p>Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (*Paper code: 1DR0/03)</p> <p>Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of the qualification – 60 marks Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text. • Choice of eight performance texts. • Live theatre evaluation – free choice of production. 	

Ways to Help Your Child Succeed - Hints and Tips

There are no magic answers. Some strategies that work for one student may not necessarily suit another.

Here are some top tips that you can follow to help support your son/daughter through this important and stressful time.

- Provide a quiet, distraction free environment for your son to work. Some students can work better with a little background music but mobile phones and TVs do not aid concentration.
- Work with them to create a revision timetable that begins now and leads them right up until their exams finish. This can be adapted as you feel necessary.
- Check in with your son regularly to see how they are doing and that the revision taking place is productive.
- Get to know their programme of study and when all of their exams are. Give them gentle reminders.
- Encourage a varied revision programme to avoid boredom, which is not productive. Enable them to use the interest if possible, to access useful sites and purchase revision guides.
- Share your own knowledge with them and any tips you have on techniques that really work. Support your son/daughter and work with them. Test them, listen to their ideas and offer them advice on how to develop their work.
- Encourage a balanced schedule, with plenty of revision but also with time to relax and do the things that they enjoy. This will keep them stimulated.
- Ensure that your son has proper meals every day with lots of healthy and brain stimulating foods. Fish, fruit, vegetables, wholegrain, nuts are all great. Exercise and plenty of sleep is vital too.
- Controlled assessments and exam time is extremely stressful. Remember this is the most testing time of your son/daughter's school career to date and tempers can fray. Please try to be understanding and try to maintain a calm household.

Revision Techniques

What works for YOU?

What is revision?

It is quite literally 're-looking' at information you have already learnt. It is an opportunity to just go over and consolidate what you already know.

What is the aim of revision?

To ensure that you know about the key topics and questions for each exam and that you understand them in order to answer effectively.

Through this your extensive and detailed notes should be reduced and you should focus on the key aspects of each topic you cover.

Good revision techniques:

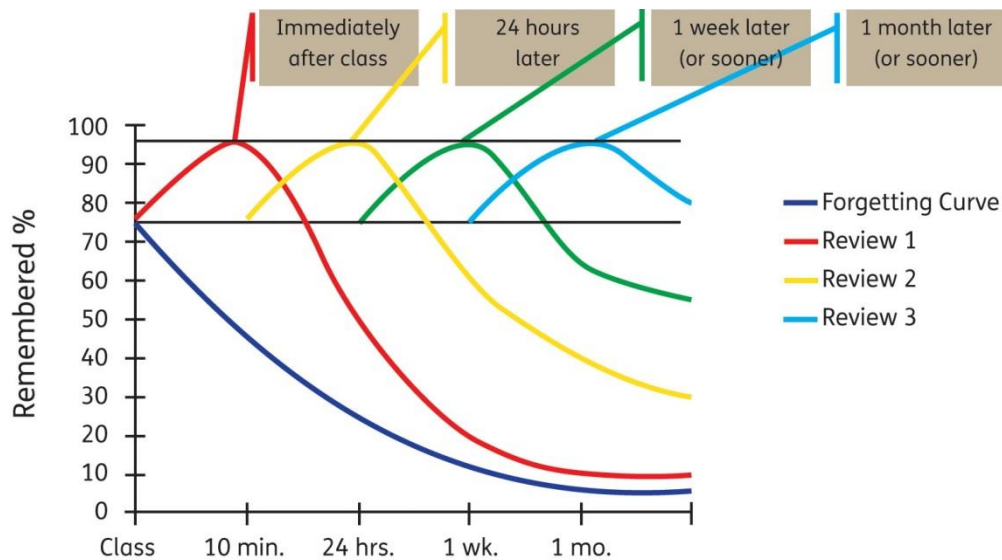
- Always have an aim for every revision session and ensure that it is achieved by the end of it.
- Break things down into small and manageable chunks.
- Test yourself and then address the areas you don't know.
- Revise each section of every topic by doing something that makes you remember it. You won't remember by just reading.
- Focus on key points, phrases, quotes, formulae or words not just lots and lots of notes.
- Keep testing yourself to check what knowledge you have developed.
- Keep a list or log of topics and key areas of revision. Tick this off when you have achieved it as it boosts your confidence.
- Revisit your notes briefly after a day, week or month, as well as just before the exam or assessment. By doing this it will stay in your longer term memory.

Effective revision:

- It is important to actually do something in order to learn the information as your brain learns best this way. We all learn better in different ways but by putting an action with the information will make it stick better. Think about what works for you.

Students who do their best in the GCSE exams work hard all through Year 10 and 11 rather than relying on last minute revision. It is best for students to start revision early and to keep revising during the year by doing little but often. This will give your child time to review what he/she has studied and to strengthen the memory and this will avoid the panic of leaving things to the last minute.

This diagram called the Ebbinghaus Forgetting curve illustrates how information is quickly forgotten unless it is reviewed at spaced intervals.



You can support your son by helping them to follow these tips and techniques:

- Do not revise for more than one hour without taking a 5-10 minute break. Have a glass of water or something similar to drink.
- Stay focused. Hours can be easily wasted on social networks and mobile phones.
- In the evenings after school, plan to revise one or two subjects for one to two hours. Leave some time for relaxation.
- Plan to revise specific topics in each subject, not everything at once.
- Ensure that each revision session starts by tackling the most difficult topics first.
- Plan to cover each subject several times and revisit each one nearer to the exams.
- Revising or studying with the TV or radio on or with loud music is not a good idea. Quiet background music may help some students.
- Reading is not enough. Making brief notes in either words or pictures will help students to remember.
- Answering questions from past papers, sometimes under exam conditions is a good way to test learning.
- Don't leave revision to the last minute.

Revision techniques

Visual

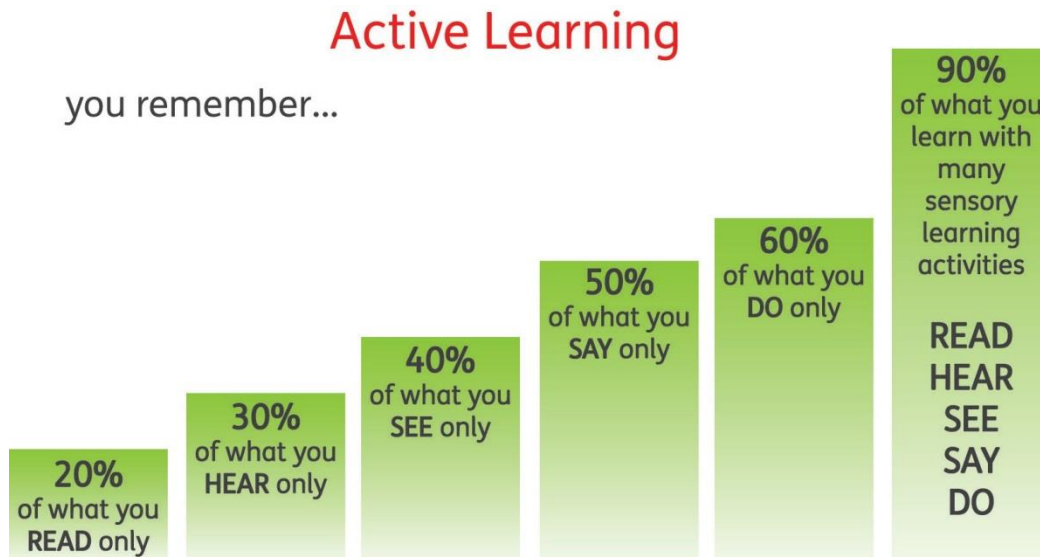
- Write notes on post-its and stick on walls
- Make notes on key ideas
- Summarise notes onto card
- Highlight/circle key information
- Draw pictures diagrams, mind maps, graphs
- Display key words around your room
- Create a picture in your mind of what you have studied

Auditory

- Make up rhymes, mnemonics (e.g. Never Eat Shredded Wheat – North, East, South, West)
- Test yourself or your friends
 - Get someone to test you
 - Teach someone what you have revised
 - Read your notes out loud or record them and play them over and over

Kinaesthetic

- Create revision cards
- Act topics out
- Use gestures to demonstrate concepts



Parents Role

The school has an important role to play and provides the expertise and resources to help your child to gain the skills that they need to do their best in each subject. However, one of the hardest tasks for Year 11 is to understand the long-term importance of doing the best they can now in the interest of the long-term benefits of education and exams.

Year 11 students differ in their levels of maturity, their ability to take responsibility for their learning, organisational skills and levels of motivation. This is where you come in. You are the expert on your own child and have always been his or her most important teacher. Your support, encouragement and interest can make a big difference to your child's motivation and ability to cope with the academic and organisational demands of the exams.

Your role may include some or all of the following:

- **Attendance officer** – making sure your child attends school on time and understands the importance of making the most of lesson-times. Government statistics show that there is a link between attendance, punctuality and results at GCSE. Everyday lost in attendance reduces your child's chance of achieving their best.
- **Partner with school and child** – going to parents' evenings, asking questions and finding out how you can best help your child at home.
- **Provider of the tools** for homework and revision
- a quiet space for study, pens, paper and other necessities.
- **Banker** – paying for the tools, files and revision guides they need.
- **Study buddy** – showing an interest in the subjects, helping with homework (but not doing it for them), testing them when they ask you.
- **Adviser** – helping your child to break tasks down so that they are manageable, keeping a subtle eye on progress and celebrating achievements. Seeing a positive way forward when things go wrong.
- **Project manager** – agreeing the rules for homework or revision, helping them to make a realistic timetable, balancing work time against recreation time and reviewing the plans as necessary.
- **Go-between** - for your child and the school when necessary; making sure problems are addressed quickly.
- **Information provider** - finding copies of old exam papers, searching out websites, finding out about the subject, exam structures and content.