

# GCSE Information Evening

How you can support your  
child



ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE TOGETHER



# GCSE Information Evening



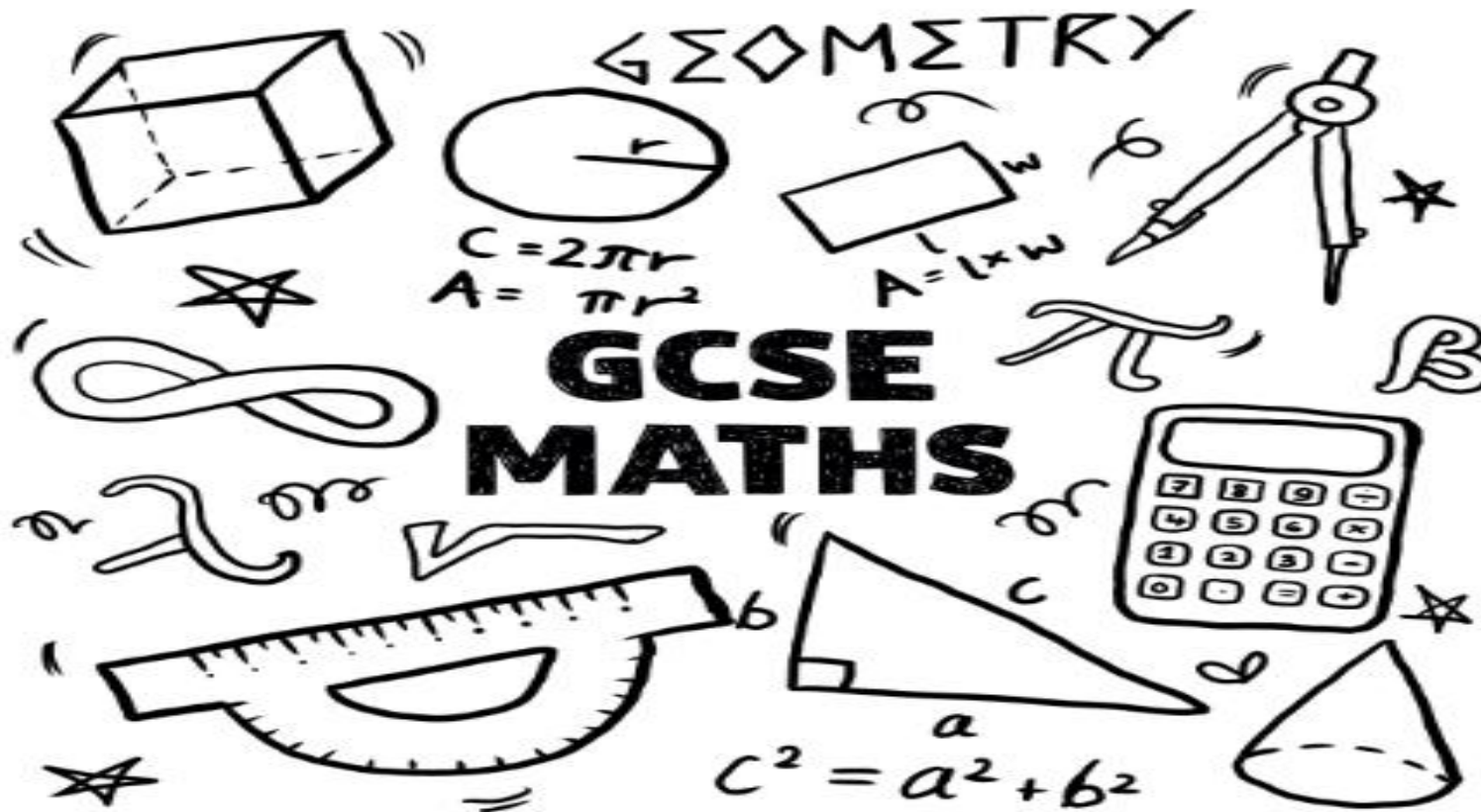
- Key dates
- Maths
- English
- Science
- Community Languages
- Coursework deadlines
- Study Skills and Revision
- Exam Stress
- Careers



# Key Dates

- 27<sup>th</sup> November – Year 10 Work Experience
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Year 10 first GCSE assessments (in class)
- 7th March – Year 10 Parents Evening
- 17th June – GCSE Centre Assessments – full GCSE style examinations
- October – Post 16 Open Evenings
- December – deadline for most applications

Practice for real GCSE's, but grades also go on Post 16 applications in November!



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True or False?



# **GCSE MATHEMATICS BEGINS IN YEAR 10**

**FALSE!**



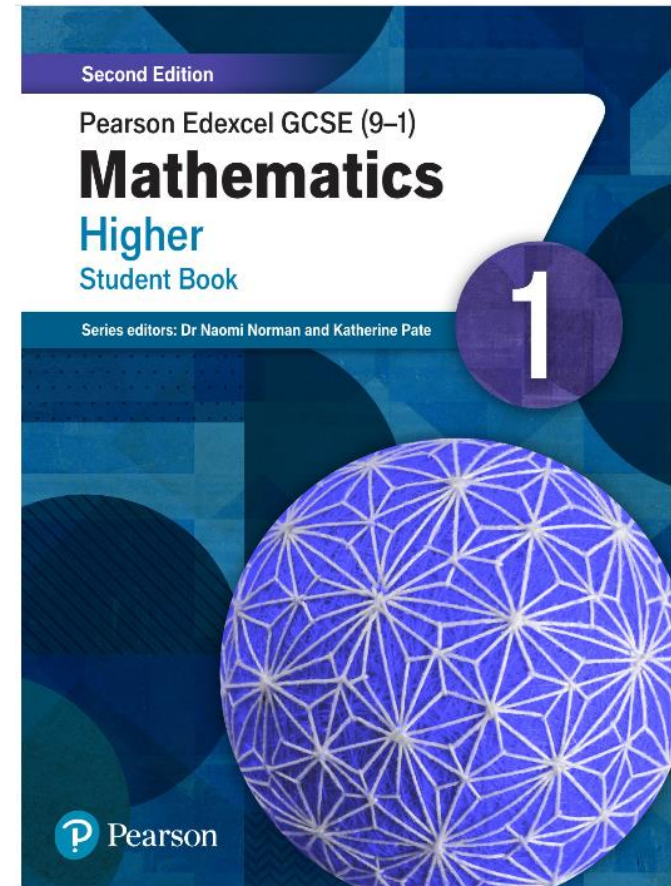
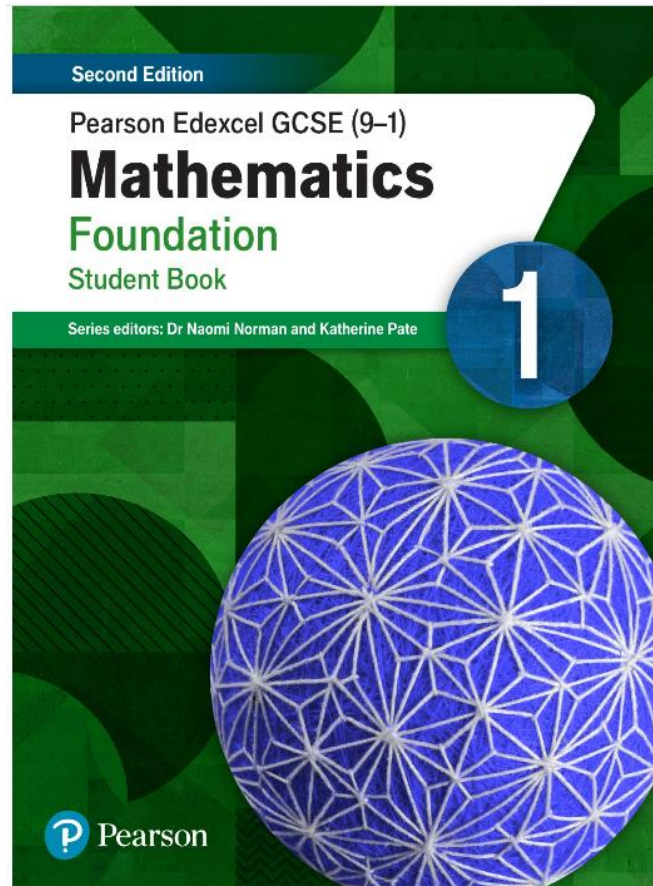
- The KS4 curriculum builds on what pupils have been taught in KS3
- The necessary skills required to succeed at KS4 are taught from the start of year 7

# Maths GCSE



- Exam board is EdExcel
- 100% examined (no coursework)
- THREE written exams
- Paper 1 - Non calculator (80 marks) - 1 ½ hours
- Paper 2 - Calculator (80 marks) - 1 ½ hours
- Paper 3 - Calculator (80 marks) - 1 ½ hours
- All papers can contain content from the whole curriculum

# Textbooks used in Year 10







# Maths Groupings

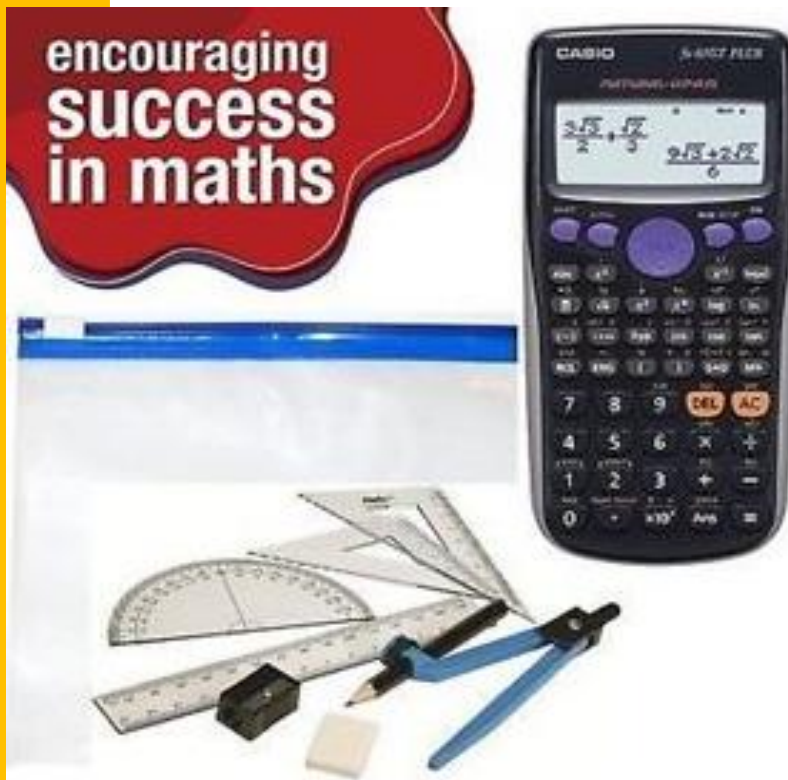
- Pupils are in Sets 1-4
- Sets 1 and 2 study the Higher content and can achieve grades 1-9 at GCSE
- Sets 3-4 study the Foundation content and can achieve grades 1-5 at GCSE
- Students can move between the sets throughout Year 10

# What are the requirements of Maths GCSE?



- Much greater focus on problem-solving.
- Requirement to provide clear mathematical arguments.
- A lot of new added content at both Higher and Foundation level.
- Limited formulae provided in the exam (Students expected to remember most of them)

# The tools required to get the job done!



## A must for the course:

### Scientific calculator

Ideally pupils would have been using this since year 7 so they would now be familiar with the majority of the functions the calculator can perform. Also, a lot of these functions will be used more often in KS4.

### A complete Maths set

Nothing worse for a pupil in lessons than not being able to participate in particular activities due to a lack of equipment. Not only will this effect overall progress but will also mean that the pupil does not have the practice of using specific items in preparation for the final exams.

**Scientific calculators and Maths Set are required for all students**



# How to support with maths

- Check they have Maths Set and Scientific Calculator every day
- Ensure they have access to the Maths textbooks, revision guides, revision work books, and recommended revision websites
- Encourage homework and regular revision
- Establish effective revision strategies before the start of year 11

# GSCE English Literature and Language



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# English Language

- Two 1 hour 45minute exams
- Fiction and Non-Fiction
- No higher or lower paper
- Revision is about practice
- Timing is important

# Exam Questions

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Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from **line 19 to the end**.

A student said, 'This part of the story, set in the hat shop, shows that the red-haired girl has many advantages in life, and I think Rosabel is right to be angry.'

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you could:

- consider your own impressions of the red-haired girl
- evaluate how the writer conveys Rosabel's reactions to the red-haired girl
- support your response with references to the text.

**[20 marks]**

# Exam Questions

Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition and they intend to publish the winning entries.

**Either**

Describe a journey by bus as suggested by this picture:



or

Write a story about two people from very different backgrounds.

(24 marks for content and organisation  
16 marks for technical accuracy)

140 marks



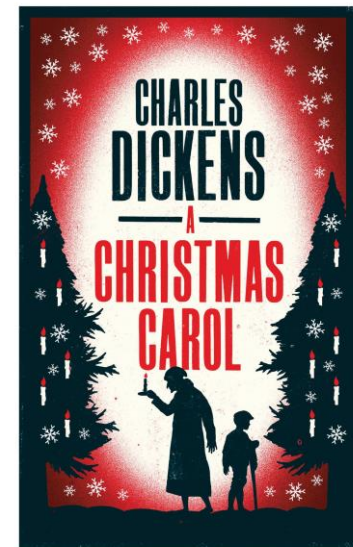
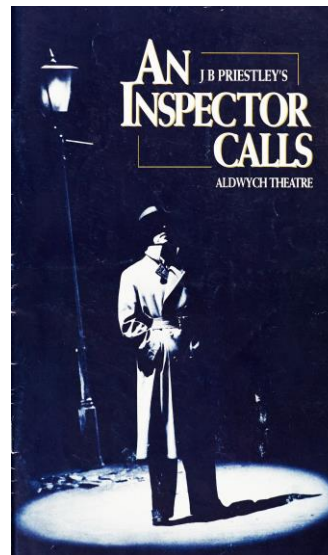
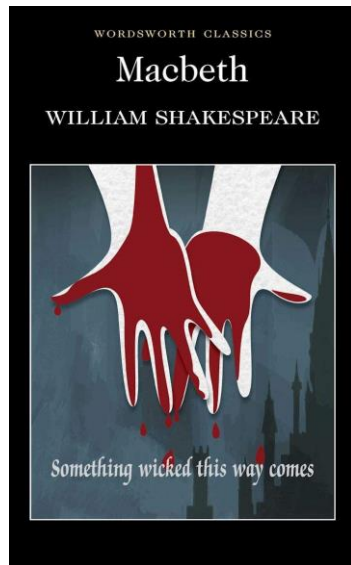


# What should your son be doing?

- Consistently read challenging texts
- Purchase / download past papers
- Use the revision guides online
- Email practice to teachers
- Use Seneca, Oak Academy, Bitesize

# English Literature

- Macbeth, A Christmas Carol
- Conflict Poetry, An Inspector Calls, Unseen Poetry



# Exam Questions

- Two truths are told,  
As happy prologues to the swelling act  
Of the imperial theme. – I thank you, gentlemen. –
- 10 This supernatural soliciting  
Cannot be ill, cannot be good. If ill,  
Why hath it given me earnest of success,  
Commencing in a truth? I am Thane of Cawdor.  
If good, why do I yield to that suggestion,
- 15 Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair  
And make my seated heart knock at my ribs  
Against the use of nature? Present fears  
Are less than horrible imaginings.  
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
- 20 Shakes so my single state of man that function  
Is smothered in surmise, and nothing is,  
But what is not.

Starting with this moment in the play, explore how Shakespeare presents the attitudes of Macbeth and Banquo towards the supernatural.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents the attitudes of Macbeth and Banquo towards the supernatural in this extract
- how Shakespeare presents the attitudes of Macbeth and Banquo towards the supernatural in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]  
AO4 [4 marks]

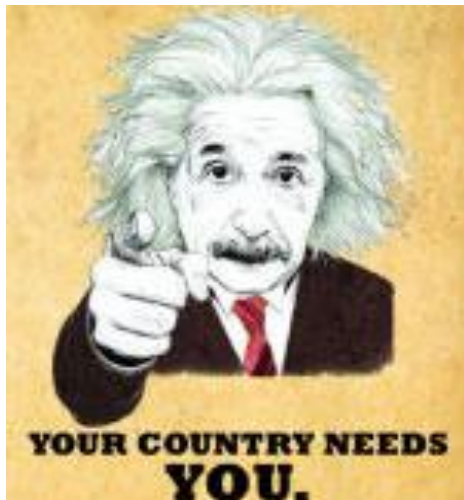


# How you can support your son?

- Start revising early
- Learn the quotations and key scenes
- Flash Cards / Mind Maps
- An organised File
- Practice Questions
- Use Seneca, Oak Academy, Bitesize
- Avoid YouTube Teachers
- Examiners interested to see that students know the whole text



# How can I revise for science?



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# Organise your revision schedule starting with the checklists.



Highlight keywords and definitions

to build on your science vocabulary.

You should have a printed copy or electronic copies available on Satchel One.

B1H

AQA GCSE Combined Science (9-1)

Topic 1: Cell Biology



## 4.1.1 Cell structure

### 4.1.1.1 Eukaryotes and prokaryotes

Plant and animal cells (eukaryotic cells) have a **cell membrane**, **cytoplasm** and genetic material enclosed in a **nucleus**.

Bacterial cells (prokaryotic cells) are much smaller in comparison. They have **cytoplasm** and a **cell membrane** surrounded by a **cell wall**. The genetic material is not enclosed in a nucleus. It is a single **DNA loop** and there may be one or more small rings of DNA called **plasmids**.

Students should be able to:

- ★ Demonstrate an understanding of the scale and size of cells and be able to make order of magnitude calculations, including the use of standard form.

**WS 4.4** Use prefixes centi, milli, micro and nano.

### 4.1.1.2 Animal and plant cells

Most animal cells have the following parts:

- a **nucleus**, which controls the activities of the cell
- **cytoplasm**, in which most of the chemical reactions take place

# Use the **knowledge organisers** to learn the essential key concepts.



Lots of visuals.

Information is in digestible chunks.

Comes with quick questions to test yourself.

## C2 – Organic Chemistry

### Crude oil

- Crude oil = a mixture of **hydrocarbons**.
- It is a **non-renewable resource (fossil fuel)**
- Made from remains of dead sea creatures **compressed** over millions of years

**Hydrocarbons** - molecules containing **hydrogen** and **carbon** only.

Two types of hydrocarbons are **alkanes** and **alkenes**. The hydrocarbons in crude oil are mostly alkanes.

### Alkanes

- Alkanes = **saturated** hydrocarbons.
- Held together by **single covalent bonds**.
- General formula =  $C_nH_{2n+2}$
- Have different boiling points – longer the chain, higher the boiling point

You need to remember the names, and formulas of the first 4 alkanes.

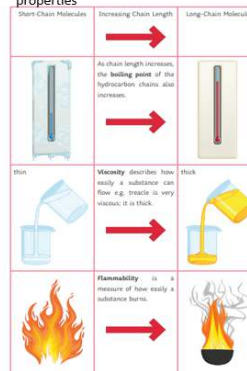
Name of Alkane	Structural Formula	Molecular Formula
methane	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} \\   \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{H} \\   \\ \text{H} \end{array}$	$\text{CH}_4$
ethane	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} & \text{H} \\   &   \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{H} \\   &   \\ \text{H} & \text{H} \end{array}$	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$
propane	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} & \text{H} & \text{H} \\   &   &   \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{H} \\   &   &   \\ \text{H} & \text{H} & \text{H} \end{array}$	$\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$
butane	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} & \text{H} & \text{H} & \text{H} \\   &   &   &   \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{H} \\   &   &   &   \\ \text{H} & \text{H} & \text{H} & \text{H} \end{array}$	$\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$

### Fractional Distillation

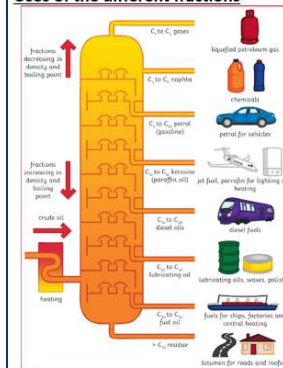
- Used to **separate** the mixtures of hydrocarbons in **crude oil**.

#### Steps in Fractional Distillation

- Crude oil enters **fractionating column** and is heated to boiling point so the hydrocarbons evaporate.
- It is **cooler** at the **top** of the fractionating column and **hotter** at the **bottom**.
- Vapours rise up the column and, as they rise, they cool
- The different hydrocarbons condense at different **boiling points**
- The different 'fractions' have different properties



### Uses of the different fractions



### Supply and demand

Product	Supply in tonnes	Demand in tonnes
petrol	100	300
diesel	200	100
heating oil	250	50

After fractional distillation, we find:

- we have more of the long chain hydrocarbons than we need
- There are not enough short chain hydrocarbons.
- Short chain are more useful as they are more flammable so can be used as fuels.

# Learn how to use the **equations** needed to help revise Physics.



You can find these at the back of your checklist .

Don't forget to learn the units.

## **Top tip:**

*Write them onto flashcards or poster paper and stick it on your bedroom wall.*

Equation number	Word equation	Symbol equation
1	weight = mass $\times$ gravitational field strength ( $g$ )	$W = m g$
2	work done = force $\times$ distance (along the line of action of the force)	$W = F s$
3	force applied to a spring = spring constant $\times$ extension	$F = k e$
4	distance travelled = speed $\times$ time	$s = v t$
5	acceleration = $\frac{\text{change in velocity}}{\text{time taken}}$	$a = \frac{\Delta v}{t}$
6	resultant force = mass $\times$ acceleration	$F = m a$
7 HT	momentum = mass $\times$ velocity	$p = m v$
8	kinetic energy = $0.5 \times \text{mass} \times (\text{speed})^2$	$E_k = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$



# Watch **free science lessons** on YouTube

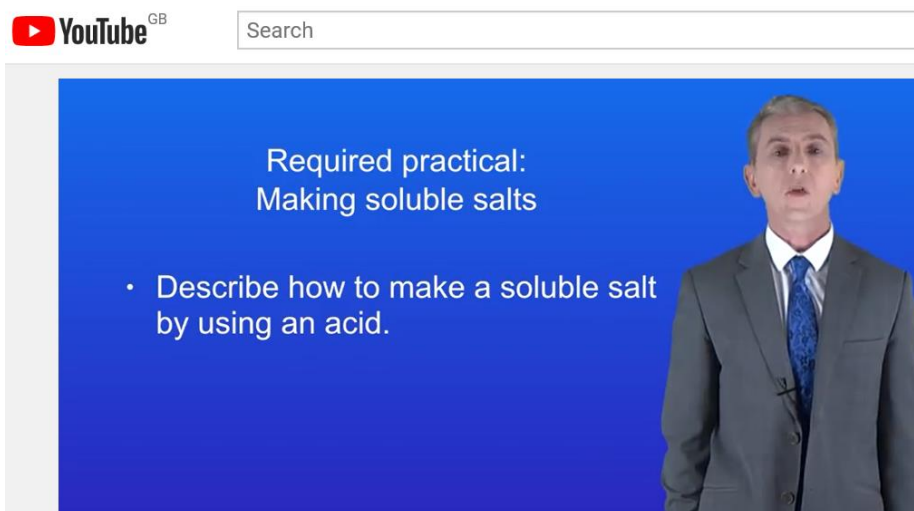


Watch these videos to help you understand difficult topics.

Videos are short, include diagrams and good explanations.

Excellent for revising the required practical's.

You can also use Seneca learning.



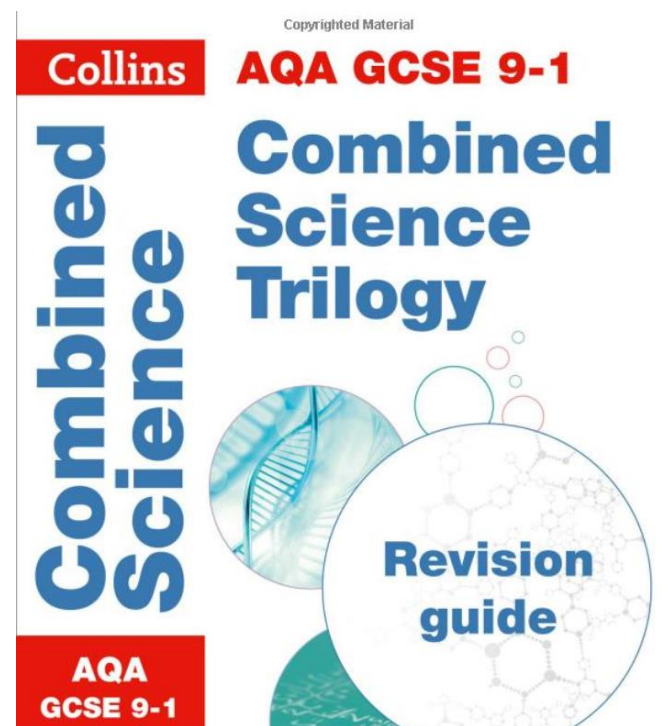
# All-in-one **revision guide** on ParentPay



Covers every topic in  
Yr 10 and 11.

Complete with exam  
style questions and  
mark schemes.

Triple science guides  
also available.



Learn the meaning of **command** words in science to help you answer exam questions.



**Explain**

**Describe**

**Devise**

**Suggest**

**Compare**

**Outline**

**Evaluate**

# Test yourself- complete exam questions



Practice, practice and more practice!

Use the **mark scheme** to help you understand the language/wording needed to be gain marks.

You will find **practice papers in the shared area**.

# Community Languages

Arabic	Gujarati	Polish
Bengali	Italian	Portuguese
Chinese (Mandarin)	Japanese	Russian
French	Modern Hebrew	Spanish
German	Panjabi	Turkish
Greek	Persian	Urdu
Sinhala (IGCSE)	Tamil (IGCSE)	Swahili (IGCSE)

- If your child speaks any of these they can be entered for an extra GCSE in it
- Please contact Mr Brassington ([d.brassington@foresthillschool.co.uk](mailto:d.brassington@foresthillschool.co.uk))



# Coursework Key Tips

- Certain subjects have coursework that will need to be completed
- These subjects are
  - Art
  - Photography
  - Product Design
  - Drama
  - Sports Science (PE)
  - Music
  - Music Tech
  - ICT
- Coursework should be completed to the best of each student's ability as soon as possible
- Often students hand in coursework that drags their grades down – not acceptable

Do you know what they have to do for coursework?

Do you know what grade their work currently is at

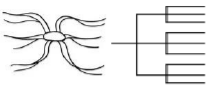

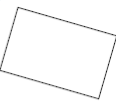

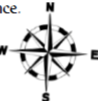

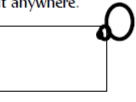




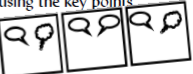
Do you know when the deadline is for the coursework?

If you are not sure, contact the teacher for more information

There are extra coursework sessions for all of these subjects to help students

# Study Skills

- Revision Timetable
- 12 key study skills
- Test yourself!
- Practice, Practice, Practice!
- Seneca Learning and other online learning tools

<b>Map It</b> Create a mind map of the key points. 	<b>Journey It</b> Remember lists of information by placing images on a journey. 	<b>Index It</b> Transfer the key points to index cards. 
<b>Story It</b> Create a weird and vivid story using the key points. 	<b>Mnemonic It</b> Use the first letter of key words to create a sentence. A well known example: Never Eat Shredded Wheat 	<b>Teach It</b> Create a presentation about the key points and teach it to someone. 
<b>Flip It</b> Write questions and answers and flip it anywhere. 	<b>Timeline It</b> Place key points along a line in date order. 	<b>Sing It</b> Set key points to some familiar music/rap. 
<b>Record It</b> Use your mobile to record yourself explaining the key points and play it back regularly. 	<b>Post It</b> Write key words on to Post Its and stick them around your room. 	<b>Comic It</b> Create your own comic strip using the key points. 

# Seneca Learning



This is an adaptive learning platform that includes revision materials for all knowledge based GCSE's

[www.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com)

Username: School Email

Password: seneca2020

Seneca is proven to improve students knowledge and recall of key facts for their subjects

15-30 minutes of Seneca a day will improve your grades!

Use the School Email account as your classes are all set up and your teachers will put courses and assignments here. DON'T USE YOUR OWN EMAIL OR EARLIER ACCOUNTS

**Classes and Assignments** – This is where your teachers will have placed your courses and any work you need to do

**Courses** – You can also search for your own courses if these are not set up yet



# Exam Stress and Mental Health

## HOW TO DEAL WITH EXAM STRESS



Take up exercise



Shared worries with friends or sought out university counsellor for help and guidance



Rewarded self for studying



Took up meditation



Blocked the internet while studying or revising



Read about successful people who had underperformed at college/university to discount any negative thoughts



Visualised what they want to achieve each day



Listen to uplifting music



Listen to comedy



Keep a plan of each day's work



Do small amount of work each day before letting it build up.



Stopped drinking alcohol



- Be organised
- Get enough sleep
- Eat healthily
- Plan your revision!

# GCSE Information Evening -Careers



How will we prepare the students?

1. Unifrog- **Work environment profile quiz**
2. Work experience appointment letters
3. Work experience logbook
4. Careers interviews in **January 2024**
5. Carers days in **June 2024**
6. Support from the inclusion team

Every student will leave with a Post 16 place – compulsory education until 18!



# Contacts

- Richard Lamb – Faculty Leader for English & REPP – [r.lamb@foresthillschool.co.uk](mailto:r.lamb@foresthillschool.co.uk)
- Godwin Kanton – Faculty Leader for Maths & Business – [g.kanton@foresthillschool.co.uk](mailto:g.kanton@foresthillschool.co.uk)
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