

**THE
WESTWOOD ACADEMY**



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Introduction

This booklet is designed to help support you and your child in making the most of what has been learnt so far and explain what will be happening as we progress through year 11. A lot of the information here is directed at our students, but we hope that you will use the guide together to help them fulfil their potential.

Year after year, students do not do as well as they could in their GCSEs because they do not produce coursework to the best of their ability; they do not revise well and they make common mistakes in exams.

Here there is advice on how to prepare them for the exams, both mentally and physically, and tips on how best to revise.

Each subject has outlined a little of the essential information you need to know about the courses and offered some subject specific website support.

There will be times, over the next year when students will have to shelve short-term fun, in the interest of the long-term benefits of working hard on coursework and revising and preparing for exams.

We hope you find the information useful in helping your child to achieve the best results in their GCSEs.



Advice for Parents/Carers

We know that you will want to help support your son/daughter during this important year and as a parent there is lots you can do to help your child revise for their exams, from reminding them to attend after-school revision clubs to encouraging them with praise and rewards.

Exams, particularly important public exams, are stressful for students and probably even more so for their parents. It goes without saying that all children are different, so it follows that there is no single approach to how a parent can help out, but here are some suggestions:

Students who do best in exams:

- Have revised thoroughly and carefully.
- Feel confident.
- Have parents who take an interest in their revision.
- Have good attendance

Do

- Discuss with your child what will be involved in the revision period and what your role could be.
- Provide the environment necessary for success. Students need a place to revise which is quiet, calm and comfortable. Encourage the rest of the family not to disturb them.
- Respond positively when they ask for help. Ask exactly how you can help and if you can't help immediately, say when it's convenient.
- Give plenty of praise and encouragement. Point out what they are good at. Tell them daily what they do well. Stay calm and don't expect too much.
- Check how they are doing by letting them explain something they have just learnt
- Point out what they have done well if you look at their work. Don't dwell on the errors - emphasise the positives.
- Emphasise the need for sleep and encourage them to eat well and drink plenty of water
- Keep a low profile.
- Be prepared to listen when they want to talk about problems as everything becomes more emotional and heightened during the exam period.
- Encourage them to take regular breaks during long periods of revision.
- Encourage morning revision when the brain is more receptive and discourage studying right up to bedtime.

Don't

- Make comparisons with brothers, sisters, friends etc.
- Unintentionally add to their worries by constantly mentioning the exams.
- Worry if their revision techniques seem strange or unusual; however, just reading is never enough!
- Make a battle out of whether or not they listen to music when doing their revision.
- Distract them unnecessarily
- Expect them to study all the time as taking some time out to relax will have a positive effect on their work.
- Join in the general anxiety; be a picture of serene confidence.

In Summary

There is a great deal you can do as a parent. You can't revise for them and, however much you'd like to, you can't take the exams for them, but you can be invaluable in making the exam process smooth, calm and successful. Contact us if you have any concerns at all!

Coursework & Controlled Assessments

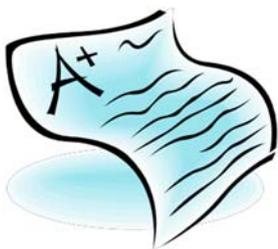
Helpful Hints

- Make certain you are clear about all deadlines - both long and short term and leave yourself plenty of time.



- If you genuinely think you may miss a deadline, go and speak to your subject teacher as they may be able to offer you an extension or extra support to help you.

- Take advantage of the support of all your teachers. Use the guidance sheets and booklets to ensure you have included everything you need to in your work. They may even be able to read your draft work and offer points for development.



- Coursework is “marks in the bag” when it comes to the exams. Read and re-read through your work before you hand it in. Set a fresh time to come back and read it carefully to make sure it is your best possible work.

- Good presentation makes the right impression and spelling and punctuation are usually taken into account in your marks.



- If you keep your work on a computer, make sure you always have a back-up copy and save your changes regularly. Keep a paper copy of any work handed in.

Revision

- Year after year, students don't do as well as they could at their GCSEs because they don't revise well. You've spent 11 years of your life at school and a few months of well-planned revision is a small price to pay for future success.
- An odd hour here and there is not enough. You need to keep to both your long term and weekly revision timetables.
- The next section of this booklet aims to tackle some of the key problems you may face as you reach this crucial stage in your education.
- Here are some helpful hints to get you started:



- Start your revision in good time - cramming is **not** fun and **never** works!

- Plan a revision timetable - and stick to it!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Chemistry	Chemistry	Biology	Biology	Physics	Physics	Mathematics
Mathematics	Mathematics	English	English	English	English	English
Disordered Disease Exam 14:00				Classical Disposition Exam 14:00		
Endocrine Exam 9:30				Neuroscience Exam 9:30		
Advanced Cell Exam 14:00						
		Medical Microbiology Exam 14:00				

Spread your subjects out over time so that you are able to visit each subject several times.

- Whilst at school, plan to revise one or two subjects in an evening, don't try to do too much.
- Allow a few days off. But not in the few weeks before the exams, at this time take regular breaks, rather than complete rest days.
- Plan to revise specific topics or aspects of a subject - for example, not just Science but waves or chemical reactions or electricity etc. This will help to keep you focussed.

Top Ten Revision Tips

1. Short bursts of revision (30-40 minutes) are most effective. Your concentration lapses after about an hour and you need to take a short break (5-10 minutes).



2. Find a quiet place to revise - your bedroom, school, the library - and refuse to be interrupted or distracted. (See "A Place to Study" - p 13)

3. Make sure you don't just revise the subjects and topics you like. Work on your weaker ones as well.

4. Make your own revision notes because you will remember what you have written down more easily. Stick key notes on cupboards or doors so you see them every day.



5. Rewrite the key points of your revision notes and read them out loud to yourself. We remember more than twice as much of what we say aloud than of what we read.

6. Use different techniques. Make your own learning maps. Use post-it notes to write key words on, create flash cards. Record your notes onto your computer and listen to them back on your ipod/mp3 player. Ask friends and family to test you. Use highlighter pens to mark important points. Chant or make up a song.

7. Practise on past exam papers or revision tests available on the web. Initially, do one section at a time and progress to doing an entire paper against the clock.

8. You will need help at some stage; ask your parents, older brothers or sisters, teachers or friends. Use the revision sessions to drop in and ask your teachers about anything you are unsure of.

9. Eat properly and get lots of sleep! (See "Healthy Brains" - p 14)

10. Believe in yourself and be positive. If you think you can succeed you will; if you convince yourself that you will fail, that's what will probably happen. (See "Stress Management" - p 12)



Revision Planning

Weekly Planners

- Although the Year Planner gives you a useful overview, it is also useful to have a weekly plan with your regular commitments on it. This should include all your hours at school, sports practices, plus social time with friends and family.
- Once this is filled in, you will have a good idea of how much time is left for study and working on coursework assignments.
- *(If there is very little time left, then you may have to consider reducing some of your commitments during year 11!)*
- Now, schedule in regular study times for each subject you are studying. Don't be afraid of showing other people your plan – they can support you and help keep you on track.

Daily to-do Lists

- Some students prefer a daily plan and so a daily to do list is a good strategy for these people.
- The “To Do” list allows you to reflect on your progress each day and think about the next steps so it keeps you focused and motivated.
- At the end of each day, work out what you have to do the next day.
- Write the list.
- Use **SMART** goals.
- Prioritise those that must be done from those you would like to get done and from those that can wait.
- This list should NOT ONLY be academic tasks, although the closer you get to the exam period, the more these will dominate your list.
- Work through the list starting with the most urgent.
- Cross tasks off as they are accomplished.

Specific
Measurable
Achievable
Relevant
Time-specific

“The most important thing is to take breaks, reward yourself with your favourite show or take a walk to get some fresh air.”

Example of a “Weekly Plan”

9:00am-10:00am							
10:00am-11:00am							
11:00am-12:00pm							
12:00pm-1:00pm							
1:00pm-2:00pm							
2:00pm-3:00pm							
3:00pm-4:00pm							
4:00pm-5:00pm							
5:00pm-6:00pm							
6:00pm-7:00pm							
7:00pm-8:00pm							
8:00pm-9:00pm							
9:00pm-10:00pm							
	M	O	N	T	U	E	W
	T	H	U	F	R	I	S
	S	A	T	S	U	N	

Example of a Daily “To-do” List

THINGS TO DO ... TODAY

PRIORITY	DATE	COMPLETED
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	10. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	11. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	12. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	13. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	14. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	15. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Points to keep in mind:

1. Break big tasks into smaller more manageable things to do
2. Prioritise your goals for the day and, as much as possible do the most important first
3. Stick to a policy of doing something now rather than later
4. Always think of how you can best use the present time

5. Do your best to make every day count!

Make Revision Fun



Revision doesn't have to be boring and mean long hours sat in front of endless revision guides, books or notes. Here are a few suggestions to make revision fun.

1. Work Together

Having study groups can help make learning easier and more fun, as long as you **do** study and don't end up gossiping or playing computer games!

2. Draw

Drawing funny pictures or cartoon sequences that help you to remember a certain chain of events works well in things like science experiments. Any revision that requires you to put things into an order of some kind can be drawn!



3. Text

How many text messages do you send a day or week? Make a plan with your friends to add a fact to the end of every text message you send to build up your knowledge and add to your revision efforts.



4. Games

Making a popular game into a revision aid is fun. Even making the game makes you revise your work. Trivial pursuits, blockbusters and battle ships work really well. You can learn with a group of friends and have fun doing it.



5. Sing

How often does a song get into your head and you end up singing it all day? Why not find some of your favourites tunes and change the words to fit in with a revision topic? The song will help your brain to trigger the information.



6. Decorate your room

Make your revision space into a revision centre. Lots of bright coloured posters, post-it notes and diagrams to hang around your room make you visit the information at regular intervals. Putting post-it notes on the inside of cupboard doors you use regularly or in places around the house you use often will keep your brain active.

Stress Management

Year 11 can be a particularly difficult time for many students (...and parents!) In order to achieve your potential, you will need to be at your best, as much as possible. Try the tips below to help keep you relaxed when required.



Learn to relax

Take mini breaks throughout the day. Work on relaxation techniques such as taking slow deep breaths.

Exercise

Physical activity provides relief from stress. 30 minutes of sport or a short work-out will do the trick.

Time

Recognise that you can only do so much in a given time. Try to pace, not race.

Sleep

Don't become overtired by forcing yourself to work late. Your ideal sleep time is about 8 hours a night.

Make a List

Make a list of things that are worrying you - then your brain will stop bringing them forward all the time.

Stress Management

Get Organised

Have a realistic daily schedule including revision, sleep, eating, relationships and recreation.

Be Positive

Talk positively to yourself. Don't listen to that voice saying you can't; tell yourself you can and you will.

Talk

Talking and meeting with friends and sharing your feelings and thoughts can be helpful in reducing stress.

Stay Calm

Make sure you are in a calm, positive mood before you start studying.



Be Healthy

Watch your eating habits. Make sure you eat sensibly and have a balanced diet. Drink plenty of water.



A place to study

Your study room should be quiet; not too hot or too cold.

Your eyes will get tired so make sure there is plenty of light. A table lamp is great.



Make sure you have all the equipment you need around you before you start. (Pens, pencils, highlighter, rubber, paper, post-its etc.)

DO NOT study with the TV on. You will be constantly distracted!

Some people like to have quiet music on in the background, as it helps them focus. But remember - too much noise will distract you!



Some study can be done anywhere - take flash cards and key words with you as you travel around.

Computers and other media devices can be a great help with revision, but they can also be a distraction too. Use them wisely!

***HAVE A SET PLACE TO STUDY AND YOU WILL
QUICKLY GET INTO THE RIGHT HABITS***



Healthy Brains

Just as an athlete needs to follow a regime to reach their peak fitness, your brain also needs a regime to reach its full potential.

- **Plenty of Sleep**

Your brain needs time to sort out the information it has come across during the day. Make sure that during your revision and your exams, you get enough sleep - late night revision may do more harm than good.

- **Drink lots of water**

Your brain is made mostly of water and dehydration will lead to headaches and tiredness.

- **Eat a balanced diet**

Your brain needs a balanced diet, so eat plenty of fruit and vegetables; 'brain food'.

- **Exercise your body**

The brain uses 20% of the oxygen in the blood so you need to think about your posture and exercise to make sure your body gets enough.

- **Exercise your mind**

Just as muscles need to be stretched and worked, so does your mind - use brain gyms or puzzles to break up your revision.

- **Avoid too much...**

Chocolate, coke, caffeine and foods with lots of additives. These substances interfere with the way your brain functions and can make you nervous.



Key Stages in Tackling the Exam and Avoiding Common Exam Mistakes

- Listen to the invigilator/examiner carefully.
- Read the instructions carefully. Marks are often thrown away because students don't do what they are asked to. Ensure you understand what is required of you – you should know what to expect from the Mock Exams, but you must make sure things haven't changed.
- If you have a choice of questions - choose sensibly. Scan all the questions before you settle on the ones you will answer.
- Make sure you **answer the question**; don't simply repeat it or make up a question of your own. Underline the key words in a question to help keep you focussed.
- Write your answer if you feel confident. If not, go on to the next question. Don't spend time on questions you are unsure of until you have been through the whole paper once.
- If you have to draw diagrams, charts or graphs, use a sharp pencil and draw accurately using a ruler where necessary.
- For longer answers – ensure you plan your answer and refer back to your plan at every stage, check your answer against your plan at the end.
- Try to use the correct subject specific key words and check your spellings, but if you are not sure of the spelling, write your answer anyway. You will often get the mark.
- Once you have answered all the more straightforward questions go through the paper again, tackling those questions which are more difficult. If on the second reading a question is still very difficult, move on to the next question. But always remember that you will definitely get NO marks if you don't write anything!

Key Stages in Tackling the Exam and Avoiding Common Exam Mistakes

- Check all calculations. Does the answer make sense and have you included the units?
- Check information in graphs, tables and pictures. Did you read them correctly? Make sure you haven't missed anything important.
- Keep an eye on the time. Make sure you don't spend too long on one question; you need to allocate your time equally. Look at which questions are worth the most marks and spend more time on these. Write enough, but not too much.
- If you finish early you will not be allowed to leave the room until the exam is finished. Use this time to proof read your work - this could make the difference between a D and a C. Re-read the questions and your answers and make any necessary corrections.

The Rules

- If you are caught trying to communicate with another student you will be disqualified.
- No mobile phones are allowed in the Examination Hall.
- You are not allowed to sit where you want. You will be given a candidate number and a specific seat.
- If you need to go the toilet you will be escorted by one of the invigilators.
- If you are 15-20 minutes late you may not be allowed in and if you do not turn up for the exam there is no second chance - if you are in hospital you can still do the exam there!

Subject Help & Advice

Maths

Exam syllabus: Edexcel 1MA0

The maths course consists of a final terminal exam at the end of year 11. It is split into two papers, one calculator and one non-calculator. The students will enter at either Higher (grades A* - D) or Foundation (grades C – G) depending on their ability.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse10/maths/maths-a/Pages/default.aspx>www.mathswatchvle.co.uk

<http://www.hegartymaths.com/>

Science

Exam syllabus: AQA Additional Science GCSE

The AQA Additional Science course challenges and extends our students to further develop concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The students are assessed on four exams:

- Physics 2 (25% of final mark)
- Chemistry 2 (25% of final mark)
- Biology 2 (25% of final mark)
- Controlled Assessment (25% of final mark)

The exam board that the students are studying is AQA. Students have been provided with a revision guide.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv> - BBC Bitesize - video

<http://www.youtube.com/user/myGCSEscience> - My GCSE Science AQA – lots of video clips which can be used to consolidate knowledge and understanding.

Exam syllabus: AQA Further Additional Science

The AQA Further Additional Science course challenges and extends the students to further develop concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The content covered in the Biology is structure of the heart, lungs, and homeostasis. The Chemistry module covers The Periodic Table, purifying water and Organic Chemistry. The Physics reviews knowledge and understanding of Medical Applications of Physics, Electromagnets and Using Physics to Make Things Work. The students are assessed on four exams:

- Physics 3 (25% of final mark)
- Chemistry 3 (25% of final mark)
- Biology 3 (25% of final mark)
- Controlled Assessment (25% of final mark)

The exam board that the students are studying is AQA. Students have been provided with revision guides for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv> - BBC Bitesize - video

<http://www.youtube.com/user/myGCSEscience> - My GCSE Science AQA – lots of video clips which can be used to consolidate knowledge and understanding.

English

Exam syllabus: Edexcel KEAO and KETO

All pupils take the untiered Edexcel examinations in two English Areas; English Language, KEAO, and English Literature, KETO. Both subjects are examined in year 11 with two examination papers for each area. Much of the course is supported by a green anthology of poetry and prose which has been issued to the pupils. Passages from sections A and B will appear in the English Language Paper and from Section C in the English Literature paper. The pupils will build up their skills as we work on these given texts, as the exam papers also contain unseen material. For their English Literature Examination pupils also study one Shakespeare play and one novel.

Suggested websites:

www.youtube.co.uk – pupils can search for the anthology texts on here and will find a range of analysis.

www.bcbitesize.co.uk Here pupils will find a range of activities and revision materials.

Spanish

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE Spanish

The course is made up of four key skills:

Speaking (30%). 2 tasks carried out over Y10 & Y11 - strongest 2 pieces submitted, worth 15% each.

Writing (30%). 2 tasks carried out over Y10 & Y11 - strongest 2 pieces submitted, worth 15% each.

Listening (20%). Exam in mid-May. Higher or Foundation tier, worth 20%

Reading (20%). Exam in mid-May. Higher or Foundation tier, worth 20%

Suggested websites:

For revision:

Westwood Academy VLE

BBC Bitesize

www.spanishrevision.co.uk

www.duolingo.com

www.quizlet.com

<http://www.espanol-extra.co.uk/>

For Controlled Assessment memorisation:

www.naturalreaders.com

<http://cueprompter.com>

Business Studies

To maximise the chances of successful students outcomes in Business studies this year students will either be sitting OCR J253 GCSE in Business Studies or WJEC 4080 GCSE in Business Studies. Students will be informed separately of which course they are entered for. Details of controlled assessment arrangements will be made accordingly.

Suggested websites:

The department has a subscription to the dynamic learning support website.

<http://my.dynamic-learning.co.ukk>

User: ocrbusg Pass: student School ID: 55100.

BBC Bitesize: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zpsvr82>

BizEd: <http://www.bized.co.uk/>

Philosophy

Exam syllabus: AQA Religious Studies full course GCSE.

Comprises two units

- Philosophy of Religions
- Christian (Ethics)

The assessment is 100% examination. Each unit has its own examination which is 90 minutes long. Pupils will be required to sit 2 papers to achieve a full course grade. The exam is split into two parts:

Part A - This part has four questions. Pupils are required to answer all of these sections. This section is marked out of 48.

Part B - This part has two questions. These questions require more extensive writing. There are two questions. Pupils choose one question from the two and answer that question. This section is marked out of 24.

Pupils will need to provide their views and use clear reasons to support their viewpoint. For pupils to achieve above a grade D they will need to be able to provide a religious viewpoint when required. For higher level responses pupils will support the religious views with teachings from religious leaders or relevant holy books.

It is useful for pupils to have a collection of religious teachings that can be applied to a number of different topics. For example, the key teachings from 'The Good Samaritan' is a useful reference point for many ethical dilemmas.

Suggested websites:

<http://request.org.uk/> is a brilliant website which includes numerous resources for the pupils to access.

History

Exam syllabus: OCR Schools History Project

The course covers the study of Medicine through time and Nazi Germany. These are both examination topics. There are two exams for this course; a 2hr exam which includes source based questions and essay questions on both Medicine and Germany. The second exam is a source based paper on Public Health on the 19th Century.

Pupils will have a piece of controlled assessment based on Kenilworth Castle. There will be two trips to Kenilworth Castle, 30th September and 7th October. The controlled assessment must be completed by Christmas.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/subjects/history.shtml>

<http://www.historyonthenet.com/>

<http://spartacus-educational.com/>

<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/>

Geography

Exam Syllabus: WJEC Specification B

Geography GCSE allows your child to study both the human and physical world in which we live.

The course entails three Themes:

- Challenges of living in a built environments- this covers the types of home we live in; types of services we can access; why people in less economically developed countries migrate from rural to urban areas; counter-urbanisation; planning issues and rural change.
- Physical processes and relationships between people and environments - this covers weather and climate; ecosystems; desertification; river processes and land forms and coastal processes and land forms.
- Uneven development and sustainable environments - this covers employment structures; location of economic activities; impacts of economic activity on the environment; development issues and interdependence.

Coursework/controlled assessments will have been completed by Christmas.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.wjec.co.uk/uploads/publications/17213.pdf> The specification

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/> BBC Bitesize

<http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography> Revision resources

<http://revisionworld.co.uk/gcse-revision/geography> Revision of key terms

ICT

Exam syllabus: Cambridge Nationals - OCR

This course is made up of 4 units, each of equal weighting, and is graded at either Pass, Merit, Distinction at Level 1 or Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* at Level 2 (Level 2 being the higher level). All pupils complete the same work regardless of ability; the final grading is based on the quality of work they produce and submit. Once all four units are complete their work is submitted for the Cambridge Nationals Certificate which is equivalent to a full GCSE.

Unit 1 is a one hour examination based on the ability to apply ICT theory to a given case study - **Exam date May 2016**

Unit 2 asks pupils to demonstrate their understanding of a variety of business software applications – **Submitted November 2015. Any re-submissions of coursework will take place May 2016**

Revision material for the exam is available on our VLE and all pupils will be provided with a revision guide created by the ICT teachers.

Suggested websites:

www.teach-ict.com

Westwood VLE

Computing

Exam syllabus: OCR GCSE Computing

One controlled assessment task worth 60% (Due winter 2015)

External Exam worth 40% (Summer 2016)

A trip is also being planned to Bletchley Park in Spring 2016.

Pupils need to ensure they are accurate when coding, a simple mistake will result in much lower marks.

Revision guides will be provided by the department.

Suggested websites:

www.codeacademy.co.uk

www.computingatschool.co.uk

www.codeavengers.co.uk

www.codekingdoms.co.uk

www.cambridgegcsecomputing.org

Engineering

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE Engineering

One Controlled assessment task worth 60%

External Exam worth 40% (January 2016)

Unit 1 deadline – October 2015

Unit 5 deadline – February 2016

Unit 6 deadline – May 2016

Preparation for the written exam will begin on the completion of their controlled assessment. The written exam is an hour and a half long and requires the students to work on a theme that is set by the exam board. Before the exam pupils will have the opportunity to develop possible responses and knowledge of that theme.

Suggested websites:

www.technologystudent.com

www.bbcbitesize.co.uk

www.howstuffworks.co.uk

<http://www.the-warren.org/>

<http://www.design-technology.info/>

Food Technology

Exam syllabus: WJEC GCSE Catering

Two Controlled Assessment tasks worth 60% - Controlled Assessment Deadline is Friday 13th February 2016

External Exam worth 40%

The GCSE group have to complete two controlled assessment task, one of which has already been completed. The remaining controlled assessment will need to be completed by February 13th 2016. This is an independent piece of work where they have to create a 2 course meal on an International theme. Preparation for the written exam will begin on the completion of the controlled assessment tasks. The written exam is 1hr and 15 minutes long and is worth 80 marks. There are a range of questions from basic knowledge questions to those require a longer more detailed written response.

Suggested websites:

BBC Bite Size – food technology section.

Drama

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE Drama

Practical exams / coursework throughout year 10 and 11 - 60%

Written exam - 40%

The GCSE group have one practical assessment remaining that will be externally graded by a visiting examiner in February. They will be issued a grade following this performance and this will then be collated with the two other practical grades they have been awarded throughout the course to make up a score that will be added to the final written exam. They have started work on the scripted piece in groups of 5 and 6 will be required to know all lines and have a knowledge of the play as a whole; in preparation for the practical and written exam. The written exam is one and a half hours in length, is worth 80 marks and will require them to answer two sections (40 marks for each). Section A will ask them to discuss a part they have played in a scripted performance. The performance they will need to be able to discuss in section A is the piece they are working on now; and so they should be taking notes during ALL rehearsals on the whole process to enable them to remember how they developed the piece. The second section requires them to write about a performance they have seen. A theatre visit will be organised closer to the exam which they will then analyse in class and then revise at home. A revision guide will be provided for the written exam.

Suggested websites:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zwmvd2p/revision>

Dance

Exam syllabus: Edexcel BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Performing Arts (DANCE)

Pupils study three units of work over a period of two years. Each unit can be completed to distinction, merit or pass level (comparable to GCSE A, B and C). The value of successfully completing this BTEC is considered equivalent to completing a GCSE.

The Units:

Preparation, Performance and Production

Internal Assessment

This unit deals with the skills required to choreograph, rehearse and perform a piece for a live performance whilst simultaneously reviewing the “journey” in a log book.

Dance Skills

Internal Assessment

This unit deals with different styles of dance, developing the physical and interpretive skills appropriate for each chosen style. Reviewing progress will add a theoretical element to studies.

Individual Showcase

External Assessment

In this unit a student will need to respond to a job opportunity by writing a letter of application, they will then need to choreograph two contrasting solos for their audition.

Music

Exam Syllabus: AQA GCSE Music

Year 11 music have currently completed composition one and the write up to go with it. They will be completing composition two and their performance recordings early in the New Year.

Revision prep for the summer listening exam will begin after February half term. Pupils will be provided with revision materials and a listening CD, but can also buy their own through any major online retailer. Parents need to search for AQA GCSE Music revision guide, and all published guides are suitable.

Suggested websites:

AQA website

GCSE bitesize

Sport

Exam Syllabus: Edexcel BTEC Sport level 2 NQF

The course comprises two units.

Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise assessed through an onscreen examination in the summer term 2016

Unit 6: Leading Sport activities assessed through on-going coursework

BTEC First in Sport Revision Guide and Workbook available £3.99 online from Pearson and Amazon, required for Unit 1 examination.

Revision Guides

Most subjects recommend revision guides for students, although there is certainly a wealth of free material available on the internet and there is certainly no obligation to purchase revision guides in every subject. Only buy revision guides for your child if you are sure they will use them – many a revision guide can be found in the houses of past Year 11 students in pristine condition!

If your child is interested in revision guides here are the recommendations from the school. Some departments sell revision guides and this is indicated here. If this is the case your child will be informed by the teacher how to order them. If you have any questions about revision guides, please contact the relevant department.

Subject	Guide	Available from	Cost
ICT	My Revision Notes OCR Cambridge Nationals in ICT Levels 1/2 Unit 1 Understanding computer systems	Foyles	£7.99
Maths	CGP revision guides and work books	School	£2.50 each
English	English Revision Workbook York Notes for: Of Mice and Men To Kill a Mockingbird Romeo and Juliet Henry V (Students will only need the appropriate two)	School	£4.00 £4.20 £5.00 £6.00 £6.00.
Food Technology	GCSE Catering WJEC study and exam practice WJEC GCSE Hospitality and Catering	Amazon Amazon	£5.99 £7.99
Engineering	There is no specific engineering revision guide but the following may be of use: GCSE D&T Resistant Materials AQA specification	Amazon	£5.95
History	CGP Schools History project	Amazon	£4.95
Spanish	CGP Complete Revision & Practice with Audio CD CGP Revision Guide (F or H) CGP Vocabulary Tester CGP Higher Workbook		£7.50 £2.75 £3.50 £2.50
Business Studies	The business Studies department takes orders for revision guides	School	t.b.c.
Sport	BTEC First in Sport Revision Guide and Workbook	Amazon & Pearson	£3.99
Science	Revision guides are provided to students by the science department		
Geography	Revision guides are provided to students by the Geography department		
Drama	Revision guides are provided to students for the written exam by the Drama department		