



# PREPARING FOR SUCCESS AT GCSE

An evening for parents and pupils  
18 October 2010

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## **November 2010 Exam Timetable**

### **Week 1**

Nov	9am	1pm
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>English Language Paper 1</b> 1 hr 45mins	
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Maths Unit 3 (Non Calc) – 1hr</b> 10mins <b>Maths Linear (Non Calc)– 1hr</b> 30mins	
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>English Language Paper 2</b> 1hr 30mins	
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Science</b> <b>Each module 30 mins</b>
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Maths Unit 3 (Calc) – 1hr 10mins</b> <b>Maths Linear (Calc) – 1hr 30mins</b>	
<b>Week 2</b>		
Nov	9am	1pm
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Maths Unit 1 – 1hr</b>	<b>Maths Unit 2 – 1hr</b>

**Pupils have been given an individual Exam Timetable**

## Other important dates

### **6 December - Mock Exams begin**

Pupils will have mock examinations in the following subjects during this period:

**Expressive Arts, History, RE, D&T, Geography, Media Studies & Sports Studies.**

The results of these examinations are extremely important as they are used by teachers to predict final GCSE grades and are also made available to colleges when applications are made for courses.

## Year 10/11 Mock Exam Timetable

Day	Dec	9am	1pm
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup>	Expressive Arts Unit 3 All morning – <u>Y11 only</u>	Sports Studies – <u>Y10 only</u>
Tues	7 <sup>th</sup>	History – <u>Y11 only</u>	Geography – <u>Y11 only</u>
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup>	R.E. – Y11 only	Media Studies – <u>Y11 only</u>
Thurs	9 <sup>th</sup>	D&T – <u>Y11 only</u>	
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup>		

**Pupils will attend all lessons as normal unless they are actually sitting an examination.**

**Pupils will need to bring black pens to all their examinations and some coloured pencils to D & T and Media.**

**Pupils will not be allowed to keep their mobile phones in the examinations.**

**A box to hold mobile phones will be placed at the front of the hall but the school does not accept responsibility for their security.**

**14 January 2011 - Mock Results Day**

**31 January 2011 - Review week begins**

Pupils who are behind with coursework will do catch-up sessions the last hour of the day.

**10 February 2011 - Year 11 Parents' Evening**

**4 March 2011 - Deadline for submission of coursework**

**7 April 2011 - Year 10 Parents' Evening**

### **Other important information**

#### **Art & Design**

Support provided every day after school and lunchtimes; pupils need to attend.

#### **ICT**

No controlled assessment, but students have to produce 2 x 30 hour projects for CIDA, and 4 x 30 hour projects for DIDA.

### **Term Dates**

**Half-Term 1:** 6 September – 21 October

**Half-Term 2:** 1 November – 17 December

**Half-Term 3:** 4 January – 18 February

**Half-Term 4:** 1 March – 15 April

**Half-Term 5:** 3 May – 27 May

## **GCSE Examination Periods:**

**8 November – 15 November 2010**

**13 January – 27 January 2011**

**1 March – 8 March 2011**

**9 May - 30 June 2011**

**It's Just a Matter of Time!**

**There are 202 days left until the summer exams**

However, take away ...

- 6 weeks holiday
- 4 days for Mock Exams
- weekends

**Then this leaves only 104 teaching days after this evening's meeting!**

It is important that you keep up 100% attendance whenever possible.

You might think that 90% attendance sounds good and you haven't missed much, but ...

90% attendance means that on average you miss half a day's teaching and learning every week!

## **Good advice for success at GCSE**

- Work station at home.
- Support from family.
- Build schoolwork into your daily routine.
- Divide your time evenly between subjects.
- Keep an eye on the time when you are working. Don't spend too long on one task. Remember the time will be limited in the exams. Get used to working against the clock.
- Don't overdo part time jobs even if your boss is trying to persuade you to do extra hours.
- Attend help sessions after school.
- Hang around with students who are positive about learning.

- Plan some of your revision time and social time with your friends then you are all working at the same time and going out at the same time.
- Be organised with equipment and homework.
- If you feel things are piling up talk to someone at school – we can help.
- Make school work a priority – then **when it's done** treat yourself to watching TV and going out.
- Train yourself to be able to concentrate on doing your work without someone having to nag you about it.
- Be completely honest with yourself, your family and your teachers about how much progress you have made/revision you have done.
- Have a plan for next year. Look at the GCSE qualifications you need so that you have something definite to aim for.

## **Controlled Assessment**

Controlled Assessment replaced coursework in most GCSEs from September 2009. It is internal assessment with three stages:

1. Task setting
2. Task taking
3. Task marking

Controlled Assessment applies to:

- GCSE subjects that have an internal assessment component
- Principal Learning Units within Diplomas

What students need to know:

All new GCSEs have Controlled Assessment rather than coursework. Controlled Assessment is similar to coursework in many ways and gives you an opportunity to show what you know about a certain topic or area of your subject.

However, Controlled Assessment is different from coursework by having controls which determine how and where you complete your assessments and what resources you may use.

These controls mean that:

- All pupils complete their assessments in the same way
- Assessments are fairer and more reliable
- You get the marks you deserve

Your teacher prepares you for the Controlled Assessments and gives you any advice and support that you need such as how and where to research information. We recommend that you keep a research diary or folder in which you can:

- Make a note of all the books, websites etc that you have used in your research.
- Keep your notes, ideas and essay plans together.
- Record your group work as you may be allowed to work in groups on certain activities.
- Give to your teacher to record their feedback and advice to you at certain stages during your assessment.

Your teacher will explain what reference materials and resources you may use and how your assessments have to be completed. It is important that you follow these rules:

- Hand in work that is your own.
- Do not allow other pupils to copy your work.
- Credit the author when you have copied work directly from books, the internet or other sources.
- Do not hand in work typed or word-processed by someone else without saying so.

### **Some Frequently Asked Questions ...**

*How should contact between teacher and pupil be recorded and monitored?*

Each pupil should have a research diary/folder in which to record their research, planning, resources etc. This diary should also record teacher feedback to pupils.

*What is a research diary/folder?*

- It is a record of the research and planning phase of the Controlled Assessment.
- It provides evidence that each pupil's final assignment is their own work and that the ideas are their own.
- It should contain a note of all the sources used e.g. books, websites, DVDs etc (bibliography).
- It may contain notes, quotations, diagrams and sketches.
- It should record all feedback given to pupils and participation in any group work.
- It may contain an essay plan but should not contain any lengthy passages of prose that can be copied out in the final assessment.

There is no restriction on the length of the diary. Pupils may have access to their diary during the high control write-up phase but once this phase has started, no new material can be introduced into the research diary.

## Opportunities for Independent Learning

There are many useful websites to help you with your revision. Ask your subject teacher for others:

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Web Sites</b>
General	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize">www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize</a> <a href="http://www.samlearning.co.uk">www.samlearning.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.s-cool.co.uk">www.s-cool.co.uk</a>
English	<a href="http://www.gcse.com/english/index.htm">www.gcse.com/english/index.htm</a>
French	<a href="http://www.atantot.com">www.atantot.com</a> <a href="http://www.linguascope.co.uk">www.linguascope.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.gcse.com/french/">www.gcse.com/french/</a> <a href="http://www.frenchrevision.co.uk">www.frenchrevision.co.uk</a>
Geography	<a href="http://www.s-cool.co.uk/topic_index.asp?subject_id=20">www.s-cool.co.uk/topic_index.asp?subject_id=20</a> <a href="http://www.worldaware.org.uk">www.worldaware.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.wwf.org.uk">www.wwf.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.geographypages.co.uk">www.geographypages.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.pupilvision.com">www.pupilvision.com</a> <i>or simply type any key phrases into Google, e.g. 'renewable energy sources'</i>
History	<a href="http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/revision">www.schoolhistory.co.uk/revision</a>
Information Technology	<a href="http://dida.edexcel.org.uk/home/spb/">http://dida.edexcel.org.uk/home/spb/</a>
Maths	<a href="http://www.gcse.com/maths/index.htm">www.gcse.com/maths/index.htm</a>
Science	<a href="http://www.sciencepages.co.uk/">www.sciencepages.co.uk/</a> <a href="http://www.schoolscience.co.uk/">www.schoolscience.co.uk/</a> <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/sci">www.aqa.org.uk/qual/gcse/sci</a>
Technology	<a href="http://www.dtonline.org">www.dtonline.org</a> <a href="http://www.design-technology.org">www.design-technology.org</a> <a href="http://www.design-technology.info">www.design-technology.info</a> <a href="http://www.technologystudent.com">www.technologystudent.com</a>