

GCSE Transition Evening Information for parents

Wednesday 27th November



Outline of the year and pressure points

Year 10

12th to 18th December: **Mock exams** ←

22nd January: **Parents' evening**

4th February: **YG parents' evening**

4th to 8th March: **Assessment week**

18th to 22nd May: **Year 10 exams** ←

July: **Report**

Year 11

4th to 18th December: **Mock exams** ←

January: **External exams in some vocational subjects** ←

January: **Applications for Sixth Form returned** ←

16th January: **Parents' evening**

4th February: **YG parents' evening**

February: **Begin revision for GCSEs**

March: **Assessment week** ←

May-June: **Final exams** ←

20th August: **Results day** ←

How to support your son/daughter

Help ensure effective study habits

- A quiet area to study
- Are electronic devices helping or hindering?
- Establish a routine for study – how many hours a week/subject?
- Allow breaks – advice varies but be guided by child

Take an interest and talk to them about their work

- Are you enjoying it? When's your next exam/assessment? How were most recent grades?

Discuss their ambitions and plans for the future

There is some good advice on this website:

<https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices>

Informed Choices is a document produced by the Russell Group (traditional universities) on the subjects that they recommend for particular university degrees:

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

You can also research courses more specifically using the UCAS university application site:

<https://digital.ucas.com/search>

This site has careers profiles on it: www.prospects.ac.uk

Encourage resilience

- Talk to them about learning from failure and taking on feedback
- Don't overprotect them
- Praise effort not achievement

Encourage them to go beyond and fall in love with their subjects

- Encourage wider reading/research/visits – see the attached sheet of advice from subject teachers

Ensure good attendance

- Research suggests a half a grade drop at GCSE for every 5% fall in attendance

Support their revision

- Plan a revision timetable which means they cover all subjects, not overlooking those they struggle with or are particularly confident about. Put the exam dates into it but also plan and protect opportunities to relax.
- Start revising early for the final GCSEs – aim for February half-term
- Break subjects into chunks and break revision sessions up too – around 45-50 minutes revision then a 10 minute break
- Different revision methods work for different students, but generally they should aim for a combination of **content**, **practice** and **feedback**

Content is learning the knowledge; mindmaps, revision notes, revision guides, revision cards (google the *Leitner Box*), getting them to explain knowledge to you, testing them. DON'T sit with notes in front of the television!

Practice is planning and doing answers from exam papers, which can be found on exam board websites

Feedback is going over your practice with markschemes from exam board websites, or bringing/sending your work to you teachers

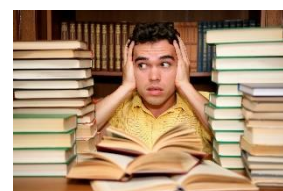
Support their mental health

- Avoid getting stressed yourself – don't feed the cycle. Be positive. Your role is a combination of cheerleader, PA and restaurant!
- Feed and water them, talk to them
- Help them relax, keep some extra-curricular activities going, go for walks etc. Help them not to be totally consumed by work
- Encourage sleep

You know your child – look for any signs of change in behaviour

- Are they spending more/less time studying? Are they more stressed/snappy/moody?
- If you are concerned contact the school

	Short term impact	Learning lost in a year	Learning lost in a school career
100%	Full attendance	none	none
95%	Half a day off per fortnight	2 weeks	10 weeks
90%	A day off a fortnight	1 month	Half a year
PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM			
85%	A day and a half per fortnight	A half term	The equivalent of missing the whole of Y11
80%	A day off per week	Over a half term	A full year



Support in School

General Advice and Support

Students: Form tutor → Head of Year / Head of Yavneh / Head of Upper School

Parents: Head of Year / Head of Yavneh → Head of Upper School

Emotional Support

Students: Form tutor → Head of Year / Head of Yavneh / Head of Upper School

Safeguarding team

Subject Specific Advice and Support

Students: Subject Teacher → Head of Department

Parents: Head of Department

UCAS and Careers Support

UCAS Coordinator: Mr Sleeman

Oxbridge/Other Early Entry: Mr Christo

Apprenticeships and Careers: Mrs Mulgrew

Attendance

Absences: School Office d.dale@kdhigh.co.uk

Requests for leave of absence : Mr Levy

Subject-specific ideas to support and enrich your son/daughter's learning

English

Essential reading:

The texts studied during the course are:

An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley or ***Blood Brothers*** by Willy Russell

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens or ***The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*** by R L Stevenson

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

AQA Poetry Anthology (Power and Conflict)

Study Guides:

Study guides for all of the above texts are available from: York notes, Sparks notes, Mr Bruff, Collins, CGP and No Fear Shakespeare. Many of these also publish English Language revision guides.

Reading and wider awareness

The greatest barrier to a pupil's success in English is because (s)he does not read beyond the scope of the course and has limited knowledge of the wider world. Reading (*anything* – it does not have to be literary or academic) and wider engagement, is absolutely vital.

Websites

We recommend the following websites for revision and wider reading:

www.universalteacher.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects

www.english.cam.ac.uk

www.senecalearning.com

www.sparksnotes.com

www.thevictorianweb.org (for context relating to *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde/A Christmas Carol*)

www.literature-study-online.com
www.Englishbiz.co.uk
www.absoluteshakespeare.com

Audio/visual Resources:

Youtube: The **Mr Bruff** videos are really useful and cover both Literature and Language. Similar resources can be found from **Stacey Reay**, **Mr Salles** and **RevisionWorld TV**.

Film versions of the set texts are also a good way for pupils to revise, and particularly filmed versions of *Macbeth*. Obviously, pupils do need to be aware that some film versions can differ quite significantly from the text, and certainly do not act as substitutes for the text.

Amazon, Youtube, Soundcloud and other sites also offer **audio versions of texts**. These can be particularly useful for pupils who would rather listen than read, and can often be downloaded and listened to via mobile phones at a pupil's leisure.

History

Students should use the past exam questions in their revision guides from school to practise planning questions. This is a good way to review work that they've studied that week.

The purple **Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History** revision guides and revision cards are also very useful, as is the bitesize revision website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zw4bv4j>

Reading around the subject is an excellent way to deepen your knowledge and feed your passion for History:

Simon Webb: *Execution: A History of Capital Punishment in Britain*

Joanna Courtney: *The Conqueror's Queen*

Ben Elton: *Two Brothers*

Nathaniel Harris: *The Rise of Hitler*

Andrea Warren: *Surviving Hitler*

Andrew Langley: *Days of Decision- Hitler and Kristallnacht*

Ivrit

We recommend radio and podcast material that extends student engagement with language, song, literature and current affairs.

Students could listen to these stations and pause whenever they feel they need to listen to it again

103FM: <https://103fm.maariv.co.il/>

Galgatz and Rehet Gimel for music: <https://glz.co.il/>
www.kan.org.il/

Maths

Y10 and 11 students have access to the Mathswatch revision website. Their teacher has their username and password:

<https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk>

This consists of videos and practice questions.

Another good source of GCSE practice material is Corbett Maths. Year 11 will find the 5-a-day questions particularly useful for general revision:

<https://corbettmaths.com/5-a-day/gcse/>

Mymaths is a good revision resource for all ages with walkthroughs and practice questions: <https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>

The Maths Department has a Year 11 revision site in SharePoint that students can access through their school login. This has a large selection of practice papers, solutions and topic-based material. In the Autumn term this has just a few practice papers to help with revision for the Mocks. This is to prevent students becoming overwhelmed at the start of their revision. Additional material is then added over the spring term.

<https://kdmcr.sharepoint.com/sites/Y11MathsGCSERevisionResources>

The Maths Department sells the CGP AQA GCSE Maths revision and practice revision guides (£6 each). We think it is currently the best guide available.

The MrBartonMaths website is also an excellent revision site.

<http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/students/gcse/>

Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish)

Kerboodle

<https://www.kerboodle.com/>

Pupils have their own username and password. Activities are assigned by their class teacher and there are also lots of resources for further independent learning.

BBC Bitesize

French <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zr8bmfr>

Spanish <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z4yyjvhv>

Quizlet

French <https://quizlet.com/join/762dDPgcX>

Quizlet is a lightning fast way to learn vocabulary: www.quizlet.com

Music

James Stevenson's youtube channel is good for an overview of the set works:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPogdlxjWgA&list=PLSSqb164OqxhEzlcTX4dh7JIKB7MIC6Kh>

The London Symphony Orchestra's teacher's area is quite useful for advice on composing

<https://www.lpo.org.uk/education/lpo-soundworks-studio-teachers.html>

Free online revision guides on each set work are available at www.rhinegold.co.uk

Physics

Years 10 and 11 should regularly be accessing Isaac Physics which is used for Physics homework. Students should go back and review these problems as part of their ongoing learning and revision: <https://isaacphysics.org/>

Also useful is the Antonine Education site, which has the syllabus content and questions/answers and tests: <http://www.antonine-education.co.uk/>



General revision advice and resources

Lots of good advice on revision planning and technique is available here:

www.lifemoreextraordinary.com

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize