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Year 10 Information Evening: Summary of Information Shared

Key colleagues

- Head of Year – Ms Dedman
- Deputy Head of Year – Ms Williams
- Pastoral Welfare Lead for Year 10 – Mr Parris
- SLT Attached to Year 10 – Mrs Odd, Ms Shaldas
- Deputy Headteacher for KS4 Curriculum – Ms Rowley-Conwy

Subject Information

Maths

What do students study?

- Students sit the Edexcel Pearson exam
- Our scheme of learning aims to support most students to cover most of their GCSE content by the end of the Year 11 Autumn Term

What should my child be doing at home?

- An hour a week on Sparx – to complete homework
- An extra 30 minutes per week on the Independent Learning section to practice or revisit topics
- Drop-ins every day after school except early close. Students can come to Maths to get help with homework

How can I help my child with their Sparx Maths Homework?

We believe your child can answer all of the questions correctly in their homework, but we know there may be times when they struggle, so how can you support your child with their homework?

Our top three tips for you and your child when using Sparx Maths...

- Encourage them to tackle it on their own
- Nudge them to use the support videos
- Suggest that they start early to give plenty of time for help if they need it.

English Literature GCSE (AQA)

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

What's assessed:

- Shakespeare - 'Romeo and Juliet'
- The 19th Century Novel - 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' or 'A Christmas Carol'

How it's assessed:

- Written exam (1 hour 45 minutes)
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed:

- Modern prose or drama text - 'An Inspector Calls'
- The poetry anthology – Power and Conflict Poetry Cluster (15 poems)
- Unseen poetry

How it's assessed:

- Written exam (2 hours 15 minutes)
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

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English Language GCSE (AQA)

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed:

- Section A: Reading
- One literature fiction text
- Section B: Writing
- Descriptive or narrative writing

How it's assessed:

- Written exam (1 hour 45 minutes)
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions:

Section A: Reading (40 marks) (25%) - one text

- Q1 short form multiple choice (4 marks)
- Q2 longer form analysing language (8 marks)
- Q3 longer form analysing structure (8 marks)
- Q4 extended writing evaluating the text (20 marks)

Section B: Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- Q5 extended creative writing (24 marks for content and 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed:

- Section A: Reading
- Two non-fiction texts
- Section B: Writing
- Writing to present a point of view

How it's assessed:

- Written exam (1 hour 45 minutes)
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions:

Section A: Reading (40 marks) (25%) - one text

- Q1 short form multiple choice (4 marks)
- Q2 longer form making inferences (8 marks)
- Q3 longer form analysing language (12 marks)
- Q4 extended writing comparing perspectives (16 marks)

Section B: Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- Q5 extended non-fiction writing (24 marks for content and 16 marks for technical accuracy)

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What should my child be doing at home?

English Literature:

- Rapid Revision Guides for each of the core texts to support their homework
- Set texts and Easy Reader versions are available on Sparx Reader
- Additional Literature revision guide prior to mock exams. It is essential that students know and understand the texts well and that they practice full responses to exam questions in timed conditions
- GCSEPod
- Students aiming for a grade 7-9 should also make use of Massolit (an online lecture resource). It takes a minute to sign up and students should use their Tallis email address – visit the website here: https://www.massolit.io/users/sign_up

English Language:

- Weekly Sparx Reader to focus on students making progress in the speed and accuracy of the reading. Later in the year, sometimes language IL tasks will involve planning and writing responses to practice exam questions
- Students should be reading a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction texts (novels, short stories, articles, etc). Encourage students to continue reading every day – the more they read, the more they understand texts. Ask them to summarise plots, tell you about characters, discuss their response to articles, etc. These can be fiction and non-fiction texts
- Next year, students will receive bespoke IL booklets for English Language throughout Yr11 to support them with responding to exam style tasks in preparation for their GCSE English Language exams

Science

What do students study?

- Combined GCSE Science (2 GCSEs)
or
- Separate sciences (3 GCSEs)
- Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics on either pathway

Combined Science

Most students will follow this pathway:

- They study Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- They sit 6, 1 hour and 15-minute examinations
- These exams will be used to award two GCSE grades, for example, 4 4 Or 8 8
- The exam board is AQA Combined Science: Trilogy
- Foundation tier (sets 3-5) for grades 1-1 to 5-5
- Higher tier (sets 1&2) for grades 4-4 to 9-9
- Tiers of entry and pathways are reviewed regularly

If you have any questions about your child's tier, please contact your child's Science teacher.

Separate Sciences (or 'Triple Science')

- Some students will follow this pathway; they will be the students in the top sets for each side of the year group
- They will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics

- There are 6, 1 hour and 45 minutes exams
- These exams will be used to award three GCSE grades for the separate sciences. For example, Biology 9, Chemistry 9, Physics 9.

What should my child be doing at home?

- Teachers will set 2-3 pieces of homework a week, from a mixture of:
 - Sparx Science
 - Combined Science Trilogy workbook (provided by the department)
 - Additional homework which is set by teacher

Below is a summary of information shared by the team during the presentation

Attendance to lessons is key for good outcomes.

In the last two years, students who have attended at least 96% of lessons have achieved nearly half a grade higher, on average, compared to students whose attendance was 90-95%.

Homework: how can you help?

- Quiet place at home to study, with a space to store work
- Or utilise the school or a local library
- Discuss homework with students
- Monitor: check your child's My Child At School (MCAS)
- Take your child's smartphone away to another room whilst they are studying. Sparx Work should be done on laptops, not on mobile phones. If you have any issue accessing a laptop, please contact school

BTEC Exams and coursework

- BTECs are examined through Controlled Assessments
- Students in Year 10 begin in February- case studies given prior to this
- Staff will communicate the dates with you
- Attendance is key in the build-up and throughout the assessments
- Practical subjects: it is important that your child works steadily on coursework and gets caught up if behind

Be an optimistic and persistent parent or carer.

Help your child by ensuring they are:

- Turning up on time, in uniform, ready to learn
- Bringing a bag and pencil case every day
- Asking for help if they need it
- Remembering why they are here: to learn, and to gain the qualifications that will get them to the next steps of their education

Key dates for the year ahead

- Week beginning 13 April: Mock Examinations
- Wednesday 13 May: Year 10 Parents Evening