Beechen Cliff

Year 10 Parent Information Evening

1st October 2026

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Programme

- **Introduction:**

  Mr T. Markall - Headteacher

- PTA:

  Mr Benedict Doonan - PTA Chair

- **Pastoral Care, Attendance and DofE:**

  Mr A. Firth - Head of Year 10

- **Assessment and examination information:**

  Mr A. Seal - Deputy Headteacher

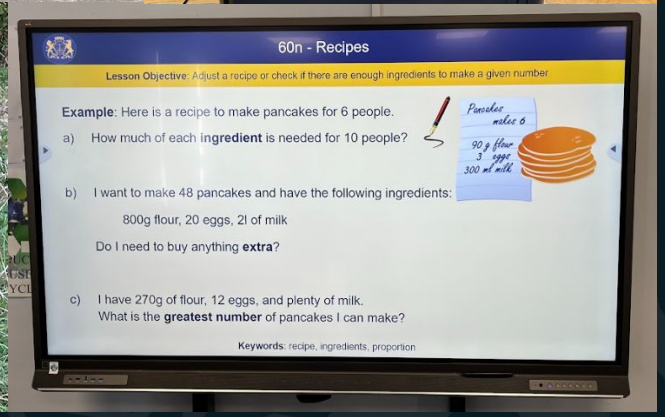
- **How to support your son through his GCSEs:**

  Maths: Mr R. Burnby - Head of Maths
  English: Mr A. Sayles - Acting Head of English
  Science: Ms R. Bala - Head of Science

- **Careers information:**

  Ms K. Mather - Assistant Headteacher

PTA



Some examples of items the PTA have helped to fund:

- Clubhouse
- Interactive screens
- Library
- Beekeeping
- 3D printers
- Extra curricular clubs
- Outdoor table tennis

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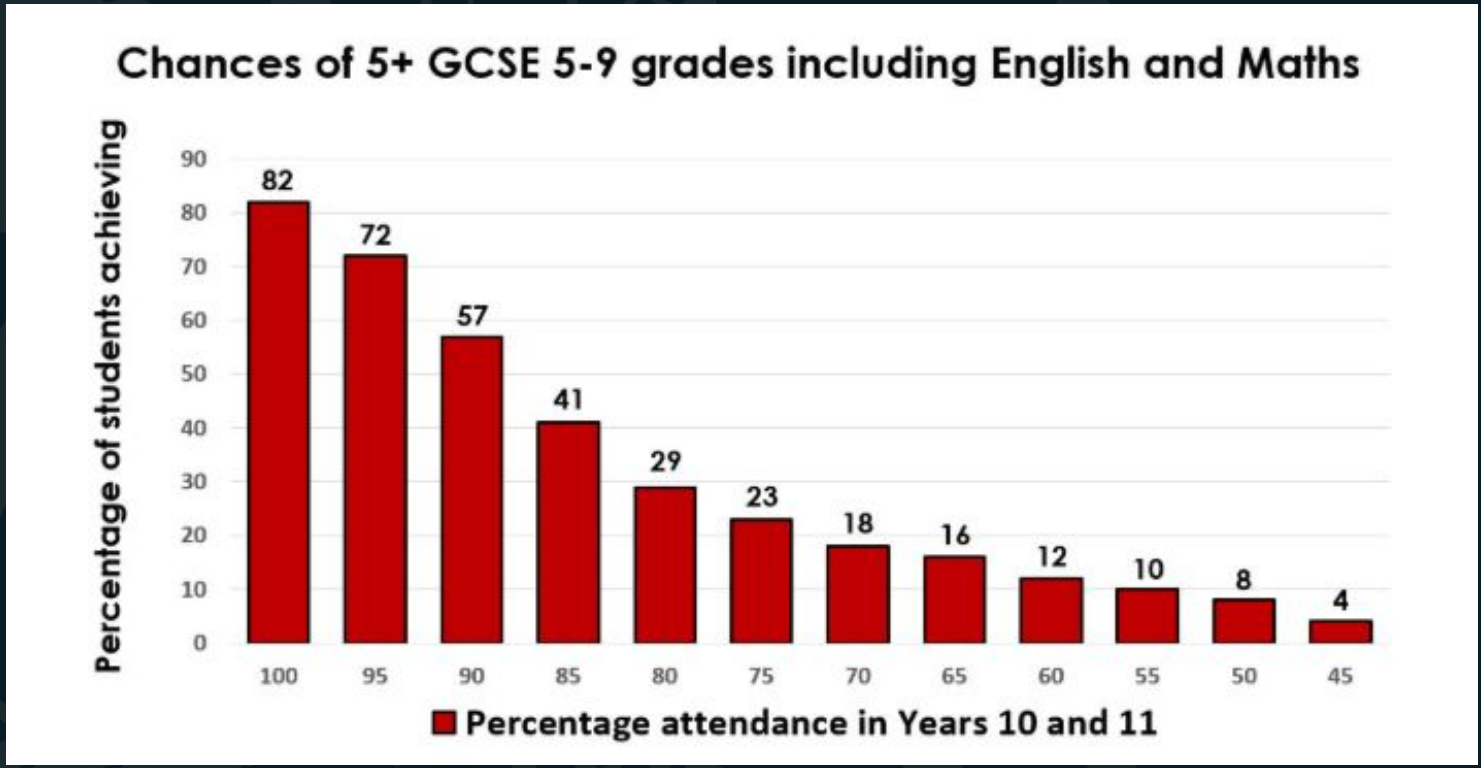
Pastoral Care

- Tutor
- Head of Year
- Wider pastoral and safeguarding team
- Solution Focused Counsellor, School Nurse, Mentoring Plus
- Every member of staff
- Talk to us!

External sources of support

- GPs
- CAMHS
- Kooth
- Online safety
- Safeguarding & Social Care

Attendance at KS4



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Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

At BCS the Silver expedition programme is designed to be inclusive, exciting, fun and comprehensive. Covering all aspects of expedition training.

The programme 2026-27

Night navigation walk 19th November 2026

Training day –Thurs 25th March 2027

Practice Expedition – 25th-27th June 2027

Qualifying Expedition – 17th-19th September 2027

Parents will be sent more information. The deadline to sign up is the 20th October.

Assessment and examination information

Key Stage 4 Courses:

- GCSE subjects (Graded 9-1)
- Emphasis on terminal examinations, some coursework
- A few Level 1/Level 2 courses – various grading

Grading at Key Stage 4

KS3 Grade	GCSE Grades
M+	9
M	8
M-	7
R+	6
R	5
R-	4
D+	3
D	2
D-	1
-	U

Level 1/2 Grades	Grade code	Equivalent to GCSE
Level 2 Distinction*	D2*	8.5
Level 2 Distinction	D2	7
Level 2 Merit	M2	5.5
Level 2 Pass	P2	4
Level 1 Distinction	D1	3
Level 1 Merit	M1	2
Level 1 Pass	P1	1
Ungraded	U	U

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Grading at Key Stage 4

4% nationally

Strong pass

Standard pass

GCSE Grades	Level 1/2 Grades	Grade code	Equivalent to GCSE
9	Level 2 Distinction*	D2*	8.5
8			
7	Level 2 Distinction	D2	7
6	Level 2 Merit	M2	5.5
5			
4	Level 2 Pass	P2	4
3	Level 1 Distinction	D1	3
2	Level 1 Merit	M1	2
1	Level 1 Pass	P1	1
U	Ungraded	U	U

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When assessments will take place

- Termly for all subjects except.
- End of Year 10 Exams – w/c 14th and 21st June.
- Mock Exams in November and February/March of Year 11
- Coursework (NEA) throughout Year 10 and 11

  (in some subjects)
- GCSE Exams at the end of Year 11

Assessment and examination information

Curriculum booklets and Exam Board information

Link to the handout

BEECHEN CLIFF

Subject Exam board specifications and curriculum information 2026-28

Dear parents, in order to help you support your son in his studies in Year 10 and 11, please see the links below to the relevant exam board websites. Please also visit our subject curriculum booklets which include the content and assessments covered each term, the breakdown of the final exam structure and links to suggested revision materials.

Faculty	Subject	Exam Board and Specification
Creative Design	Art	Eduqas GCSE Art & Design (Art, Craft and Design)
	Photography	Eduqas GCSE Art & Design (Photography)
	Design Technology	AQA Design and Technology 8552
	Hospitality & Catering	WJEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Hospitality & Catering
Sciences	Biology	AQA GCSE Biology 8461
	Chemistry	AQA GCSE Chemistry 8462
	Physics	AQA GCSE Physics 8463

Subject curriculum booklets and other information

Termly breakdown of what is being covered in class and assessments take place

Year 10
Exam Board: AQA
Specification: Combined Science: Trilogy / Separate Science: Biology

	Curriculum Foci Areas	Assessment
Term 1	**Infection & Response:** Communicable diseases • Pupils learn examples of various pathogens, the diseases they cause and how they are studied. • Pupils learn how the human immune system works to tackle infection. Preventing and treating diseases • Pupils understand how vaccinations prevent secondary infections. • Pupils learn examples of drugs and how they are developed. • *Pupils learn how monoclonal antibodies are made and used (Separate Science only).*	**Cell structure and Organisation**
Term 2	**Bioenergetics:** Photosynthesis • Pupils learn how photosynthesis occurs and its importance. • Pupils understand how the rate of photosynthesis can be affected, and how this knowledge is used to optimise farming.	**Infection & response**

Subject curriculum booklets and other information

Final Examination structure and suggested revision resources

Hospitality & Catering Level 2

Component	Weighting (%)	Content	Proposed Examination Date
Unit 1: Written exam: 1 hour 20 minutes	40%	Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry Questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions. 1.1 Hospitality and catering provision 1.2 How hospitality and catering providers operate 1.3 Health and safety in hospitality and catering 1.4 Food safety in hospitality and catering	May/June of Year 11
Unit 2: Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours	60%	Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available via the WJEC Secure Website. 2.1 The importance of nutrition 2.2 Menu planning 2.3 The skills and techniques of preparation, cooking and presentation of dishes 2.4 Evaluating cooking skills	Final hand in April of Year 11

Preparing for assessments

Personalised Learning Checklists (PLC's) and Success Criteria sheets will be shared on Google classrooms in the build up to each assessment.

AQA GCSE Combined Science – Biology Paper 1 Higher
Personalised Learning Checklist

Resources:

- BBC Bitesize - AQA Combined Sciences - Biology Paper 1
  - Cell biology
  - Organisation
  - Infection & response
  - Bioenergetics
- Cognito Biology GCSE videos

Please rank your understanding on a Red, Amber, Green scale

Red Either 'I was absent for some or all of the topic' or 'I did not understand this topic'

Amber Topic understood in class but have had difficulty applying what I learned

Green I have understood/learned and applied my knowledge

* Emerging ** Competent ***Advanced

You should be able to:			RAG	Actions
TOPIC 1 - CELLS				
1.0	**Organisation**			
1.01	*	Describe what cells, tissues, organs and organ systems are, and compare their size.		
1.1	**Microscopes**			
1.11	*	Compare electron microscopes and light microscopes.		
1.12	**	Carry out calculations using the formula: magnification = size of image/size of real object.		
1.13	*	Know how big a centimetre, millimetre, micrometre and nanometre are compared to each other.		
1.2	**Cell structure**			
1.21	*	Give examples of eukaryotic cells and prokaryotic cells.		
1.22	*	Label the parts of plant (and algae) cells, animal cells and bacterial cells.		
1.23	*	State the function of the parts of these cells.		
1.24	*	Compare the size of bacterial cells to plant and animal cells.		
1.25	**	Give similarities and differences between animal and plant cells.		

Preparing for assessments

Revision support in school:

Ongoing individual subject guidance / support.

Year 10
- Tutor based revision and guidance before Summer Exams.
- Revision skills session before EoY Exams.
- Summer support work.

Year 11
- Tutor based mentoring support and revision throughout.
- Targeted intervention sessions run from September.
- GCSE Revision Evening (for parents) before Mock Exams.
- After-school revision sessions in all subjects.
- Core subject revision sessions in tutor time.
- Revision programme during GCSE exams.

Reports and parents evenings

- Progress Report 1 – End of Term 2
- Progress Report 2 - End of Term 4
- Parents Evening – 2nd February (remote)
- Progress Report 3 - End of Term 6

Progress Reports

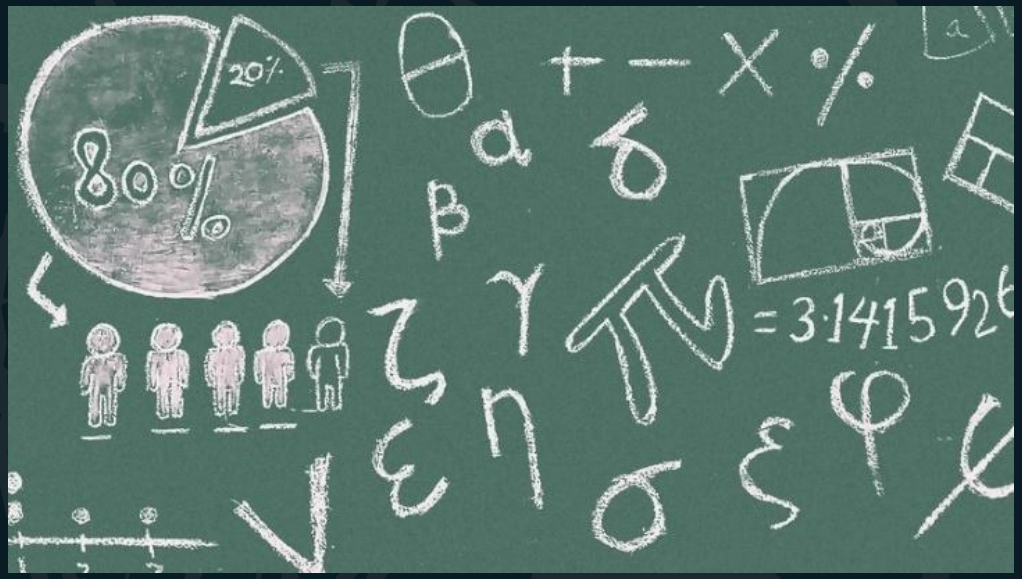
- Target grade
- Likely to Achieve (LtA) Grade
- Attitude to Learning (Excellent, Good, Inconsistent, Unsatisfactory)
- Behaviour (Excellent, Good, Inconsistent, Unsatisfactory)
- Optional subject comments - only if there is a concern or a student is working a long way before their target.

Who to contact if you have questions

- Specific subject concern – contact your son's Teacher or Head of Subject
- General concern – contact your son's Tutor or Head of Year
- Exam timetable queries – contact the Exams Officer via exams@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk
- SEND or Exam access enquiries - contact Mrs J Blair, SENDCo

Maths

Mr Burnby - Head of Maths



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How to help with studies: Maths

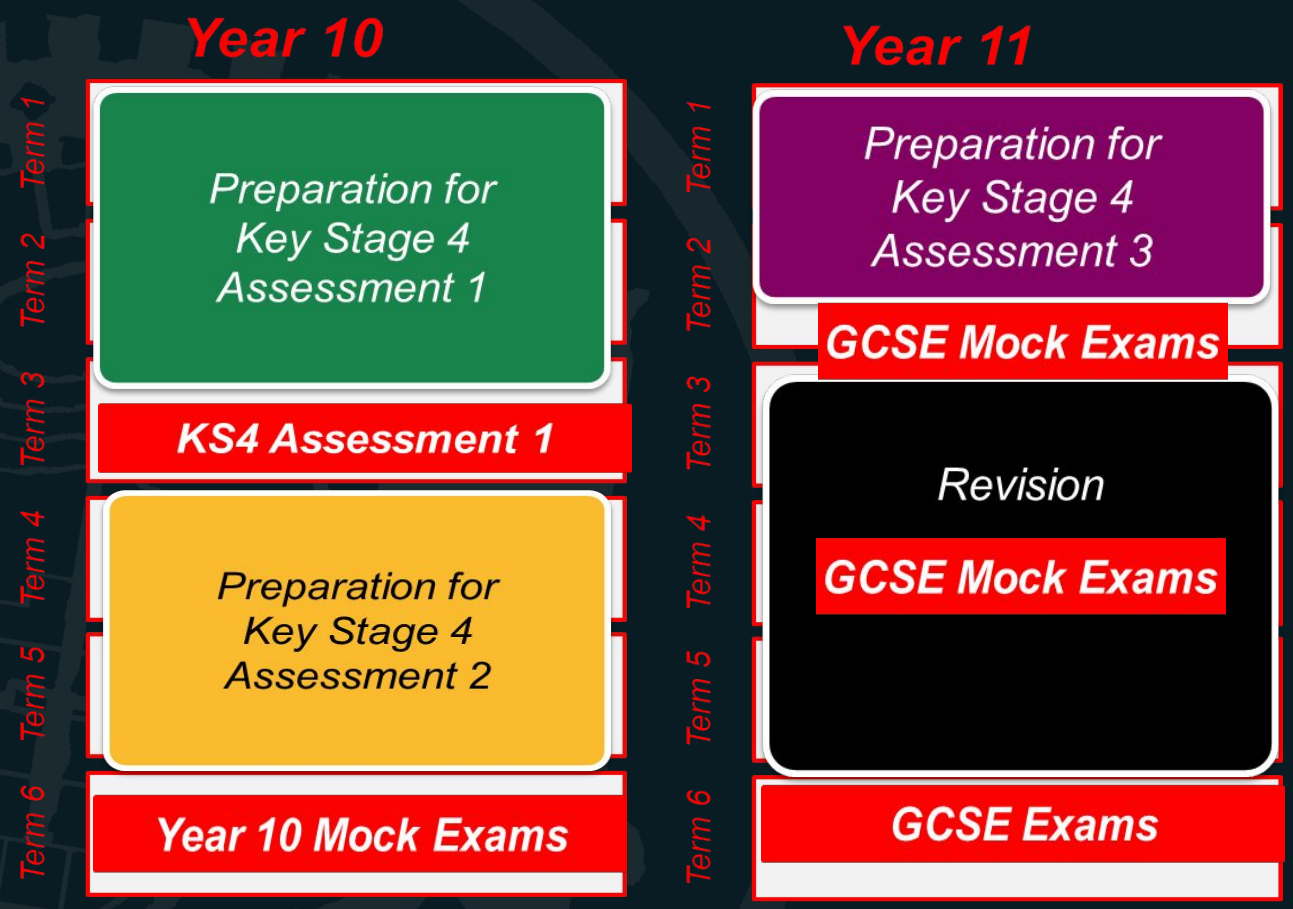
Course	**Edexcel** GCSE Mathematics (9-1) **1MA1**
Exams	• **Paper 1** (1h30m) Non-Calculator - 80 Marks • **Paper 2** (1h30m) Calculator - 80 Marks • **Paper 3** (1h30m) Calculator - 80 Marks
Tiers	**Higher Tier** – Grades 9 to 4 **Foundation Tier** – Grades 5 to 1 Finalised in January of Y11, but …

Higher Tier
10A1, 10A2, 10A3

Foundation Tier
10B1, 10B2, 10B3

How to help with studies: Maths

Assessment Milestones



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How to help with studies: Maths

https://met.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com

MET Website

- What's covered in each Key Stage 4 assessment
- What's in each test and what to practice
- Video guides and online links for each concept
- **GCSE** revision resources and past papers
- **NEW**: MET EBI Space for independent study

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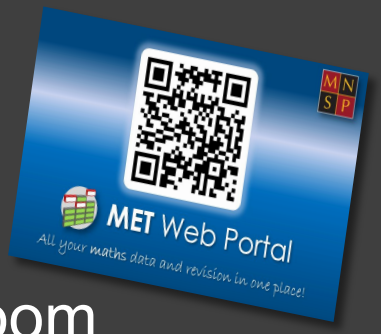
How to help with studies: Maths

Focus your Maths revision on the high-frequency exam topics ***you*** most need to revise

Access the **MET Web Portal** by



- Scanning the QR code
- Click the link on google classroom (met-tools-456317.web.app)
- Click the button on the The MET Site (met.midsomernortonschoolspartnership.com)

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How to help with studies: Maths

Sparx Maths

Sparx Maths is an online Homework platform with 10,000s of bespoke written questions for KS3 & KS4.

Students are expected to provide written solutions to the questions in their Sparx book. Homework is set weekly.

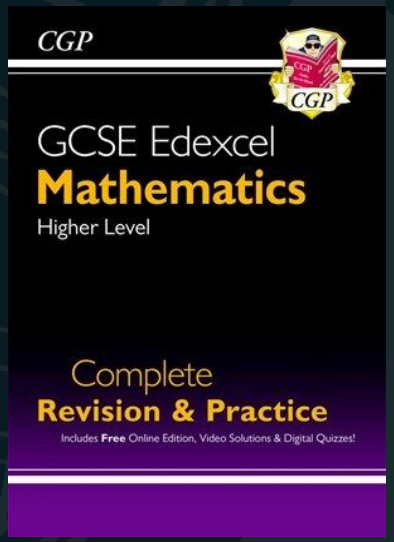
Sparx also contains lots of independent practise questions.

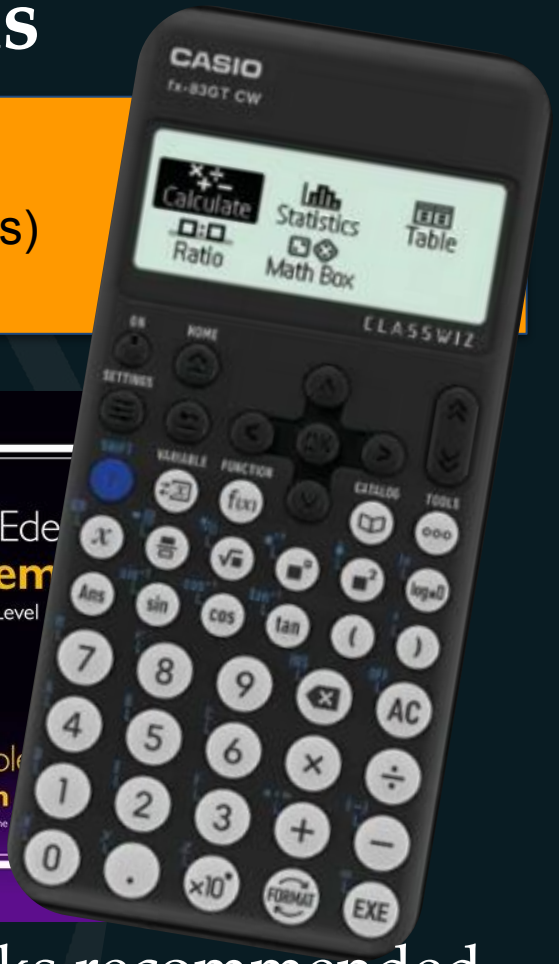
How to help with studies: Maths

Scientific Calculator

Casio FX-83GT CW (or **FX-911 CW** for A-Level Functions)
Aurora AX595-TV is a good cheaper alternative.

Black Pen
HB Pencil
Eraser
Ruler (cm & mm)
Protractor
Compass





CGP Complete Revision and Practice books recommended

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English

Mr A Sayles Acting Head of English

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The course

AQA **English Language** and **English Literature**

TWO GCSE qualifications- each with **TWO** separate examinations =
FOUR final summer exams.

Syllabus information www.AQA.org.uk

08700 English Language

08702 English Literature

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The course

Setting structure

Set 1

Mixed ability x 4 classes

Support group

We will set aspirational targets for your son which we think are challenging but achievable.

Set 1: 7/9
Mixed ability – grades 4-9
Support group- grades 4-6

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How to help with studies: English

English Language Assessment <u>Two final examinations</u>

Paper 1

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Fiction)

Paper 2

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (Non-fiction)

The Oral Speaking and Listening assessment is separately endorsed – completed during the course.

How to help with studies: English

English Literature Assessment

Two Final examinations - Closed Text*

Paper 1- Shakespeare and 19th Century Fiction

- Both are extract based essay questions with a need to refer to the text as a whole

Paper 2- Modern texts and Poetry

- One essay question on Modern text
- One Anthology poem question
- One unseen poetry section

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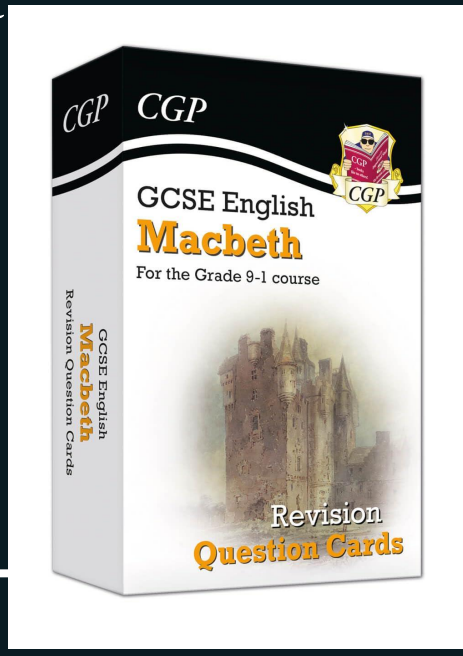
How to help with studies: English

Closed Text*

This means that pupils do <u>not</u> have their texts with them in the examination.

Pupils must know the texts well and learn quotations 'by heart'



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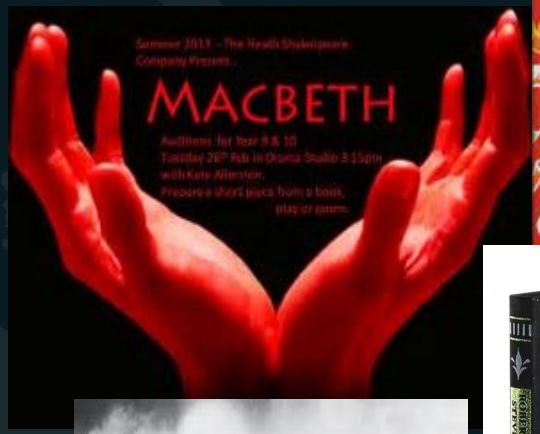
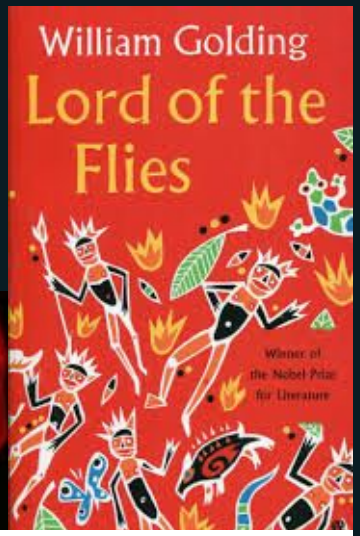
How to help with studies: English

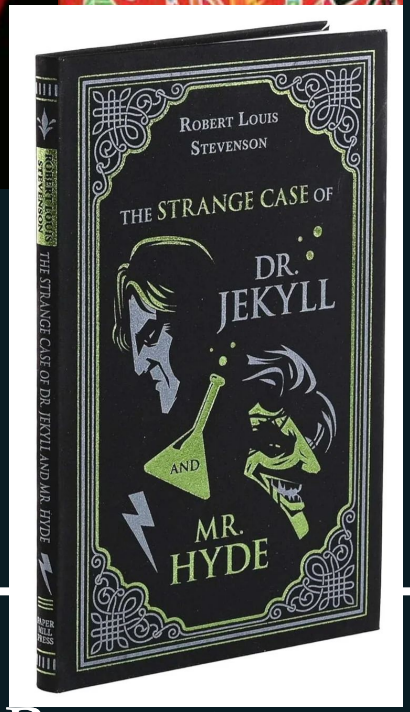
Although not obligatory, boys do benefit from having their own copies of the texts.

They are most useful if they are the same edition that the teacher/class is using. We advise waiting.

Boys will also benefit greatly from having their own highlighters and fineliners for annotation work.







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How to help with studies: English

In Year 10

Students will practice the skills for Language Paper 1.
(Fiction)

In Year 11

Students will practice the skills for Language Paper 2.
(Non-fiction + comparison)

How to help with studies: English

In Year 10

Students will study at least two of the set texts (Shakespeare and 19th Century text) and explore a range of other texts, cover the poetry anthology and complete their speaking and listening assessment at the end of the year.

In Year 11

Students will study one further set text (Modern text) and revise those studied in Year 10.

They will practise the skills needed for both examinations.

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How to help with studies: English

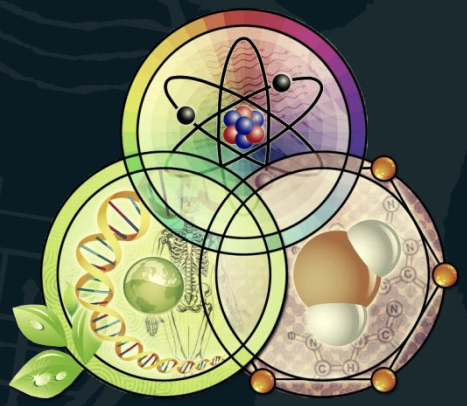
Homework and preparation tasks may include:

Cornell notes on a topic
Making flashcards for revision
Reading and annotating or making notes
Drafting or rewriting essays
Memorising quotations-flashcards
Paraphrasing or summarising texts
Arguing for or against a topic
Discussing and re-organising ideas
Watching a film of a play or novel
Seneca Learning – app
Listening to a discussion on a topic or text
Wider reading: Non-fiction sources and wider literature

Further revision materials and guidance will be provided via Google Classroom

Science

Ms R Bala - Head of Science



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How to help with studies: Science

All content is assessed at the end of year 11.
No controlled assessments or coursework.

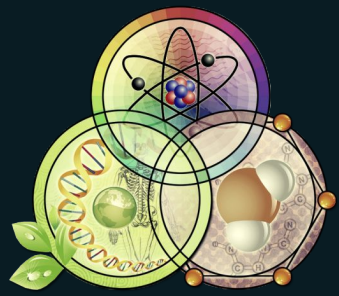
Required practicals are carried out in class.
Practical skills are assessed through the final examinations.

Significant emphasis is placed on maths skills (Biology: 10%)
(Chemistry: 20%)
(Physics: 30%)

In Physics, students need to be confident in using equations, but they will be given a full equation sheet.

Terminal exams need a consistent approach from pupils.

How to help with studies: Science

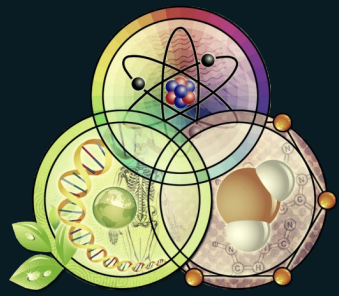


Routes through Science

Combined Science - Trilogy (8464)
(Classes C1 - C4)

- AQA Combined Science – Trilogy
- Pupils still study Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- 2 x 1hr15 exams **per subject** at the end of year 11.
- Less content to learn and shorter exams. More time available in year 11 to revise.
- Pupils will get two GCSE grades for Combined Science.
- E.g. 8,8 or 7,7 or 7,6 (maximum one grade difference).
- Taught by two Science teachers in blocks to cover all three Sciences.

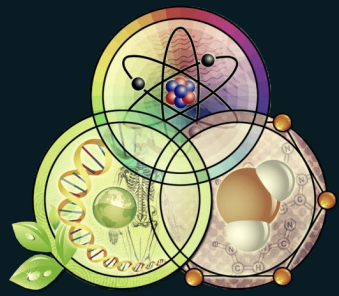
How to help with studies: Science



Separate Sciences
(Classes: S1 & S2)

- AQA Biology (8461), Chemistry (8462) and Physics (8463)
- 2 x 1hr45 exams **per subject** at the end of year 11.
- This will result in a separate grade for each, e.g. Biology: 8, Chemistry: 7, Physics: 9.
- Separate Biology, Chemistry & Physics lessons each week, each with a subject specialist.
- Good preparation for A-Level Science.

How to help with studies: Science

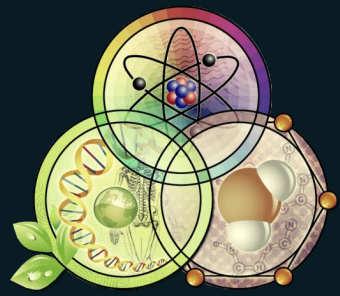


The route your son is currently on may change.

Students may be moved from Separate Sciences to Combined Science.

Setting arrangements are continuously monitored, particularly following key assessments.

How to help with studies: Science

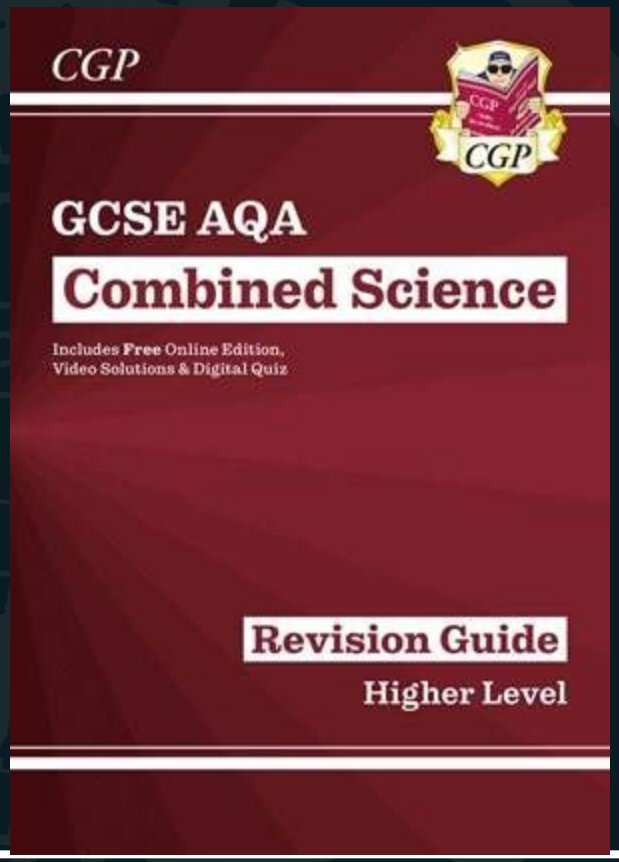


Resources:

Revision guides

Cognito science

BBC Bitesize



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How to help with studies: Science

Assessments:

Termly internal assessments, end of year 10 mock exams.

Look at the learning checklists (on Google classroom) to see what will be tested.

Use revision guide/BBC Bitesize.
Complete all online homework tasks.
Make glossaries and learn key terms.

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CAREERS

Careers Information

Miss Mather

Assistant Headteacher

(Head of Sixth Form and Careers)

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Year 10: Self-Awareness and Preparation for the World of Work

- Importance of career management
- Making informed decisions
- Increasing self-awareness
- Awareness of opportunities
- Work Experience
- How recruitment and selection processes work and how to succeed

Year 10 Careers Overview

PSHE & TUTOR PROGRAMME

Supports students in:

Self development

Careers exploration

Careers management

CVs

Using **Unifrog** to support

CAREERS & NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEKS

Visits, **speakers** and a variety of activities

IGNITE DAY 26th Nov 2026

Preparation for Work Experience

Build confidence in **communication** and presentation skills

Help students reflect on their strengths, skills and goals

IGNITE DAY June 2027

Year 10 students will have a **1:1 mock interview,** along with other careers activities throughout the day.

WORK EXPERIENCE

More information to be provided shortly but **SAVE THE DATE:**

19th-24th July 2027

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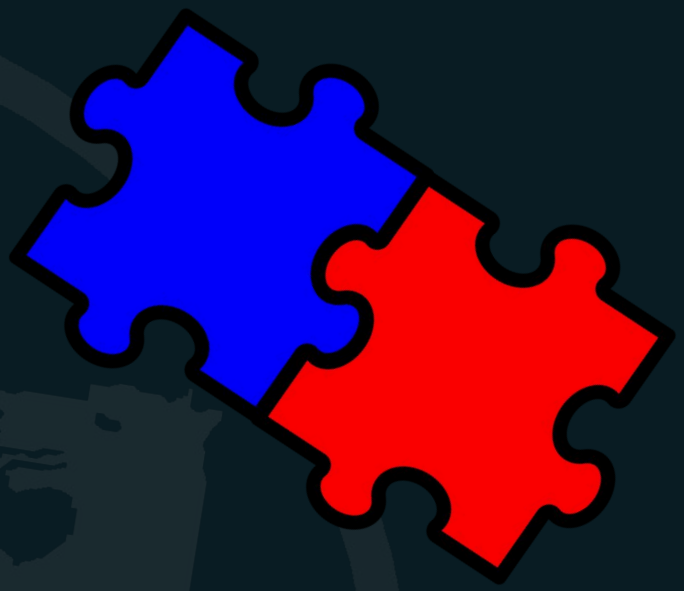
Who can help?



- Parents/Carers
- Subject Teachers
- Year 10 Tutor
- Mr Firth - Head of Year 10
- Mrs Rogers - Key Stage 4 Pastoral Manager
- Mrs Pascoe - Careers Adviser

careers@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk
www.beechencliff.org.uk/careers-and-future-horizons

We need your support to help us bring the world of work to life for our students - your insight, experience, and enthusiasm could make all the difference:

- **Host a Careers Breakfast** – talk informally about your career path and what a typical day looks like.
- **Deliver a Q&A or Workshop** – share your professional journey and inspire our students with the range of opportunities in your field.
- **Offer Work Experience Placements** – give a student the invaluable experience of seeing your workplace in action.
- **Provide Mentoring or Mock Interview Practice** – help prepare our boys for the next steps in their education or working lives.

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Thank you!

All slides will be on the website tomorrow

Contact - headteacher@beechencliff.mnsp.org.uk

Follow us on instagram - @beechencliffbath

Get involved with the PTA! - info@beechenpta.org

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