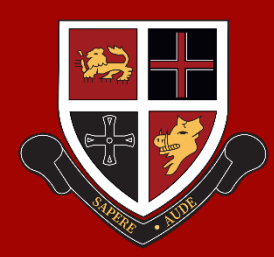


Year 11 Parents Information Meeting

January 12th 2026



Year 11 Parents Information Meeting

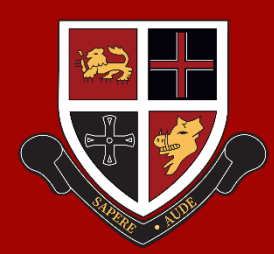
Mr Bowman

Key Stage Four Lead



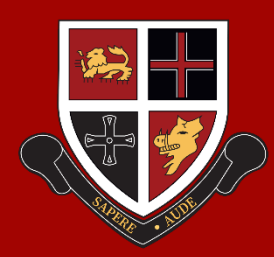
Running Order

- Mr Bowman – Key Stage Four (KS4) Lead
- Ms Baden Semper – KS4 English Language Lead
- Miss Whittock – KS4 Maths Co-ordinator
- Mr Middleton – Subject Lead for Science
- Mr Bray – Subject Lead for RE
- Mr Blake – Year 11 Pastoral Lead



“A great education in a great comprehensive school.”

**John Dunford, Headteacher
at Durham Johnston 1982-98**



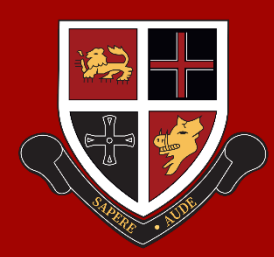
Our offer

- Experience
- Practical Advice & Support
- Inclusivity



The GCSE Process 2025-2026 – A Roadmap

- ~~1. 13th-24th October 2025 – Year 11 Mock Exams~~
- ~~2. Week beginning 17th November 2025 – Year 11 Report issued~~
- ~~3. Monday 24th November 2025 – Year 11 Parents Evening~~
4. **Monday 12th January - Year 11 PIP**
5. **Week beginning 9th February 2026** – Year 11 Mock Exams begin and run for two weeks
6. **Week beginning 9th March 2026** – Year 11 Report issued
7. **May-June 2026** - Formal GCSE exams (No leaver's day agreed – bespoke timetables for further individualised support)
8. **Thursday 20th August 2026** - GCSE Results Day – End of Year 11



How can I support my child?

1. Attendance is key
2. Communication – with us and them
3. Continue to promote good study habits
4. Help manage their (and your) worries and concerns



1. Attendance

On average students with 97% attendance or higher performed a full grade above expected.

At 96% attendance that dropped to about 1/3 of a grade above expected.

Students with less than 90%, on average, made below expected progress.

All students should aim for 100% attendance.

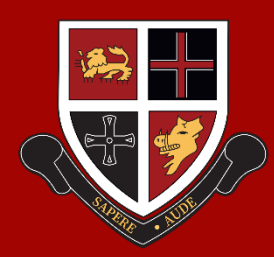


2. Communication

Talk to us (Class Charts)

Talk to them

Keep things in perspective



3. Continue to promote good study habits

Where are they revising?

How are they revising?

Too much or too little?



4. Help manage their (and your) worries and concerns

Keep things in perspective

Know how to help them

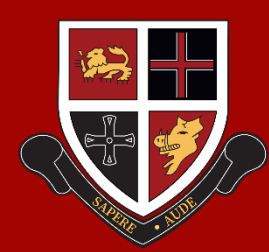
Know how they can help themselves



DURHAM JOHNSTON
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DARE TO BE WISE

Year 11
January 2026

**Destinations are the
most important factor**



Sixth form open event

- **Wednesday 21st January 2026**
- **5:30pm-6:30pm**
- All current and new applicants welcome
- **Brief talk** in James Hall at 5:30pm and 6pm
- Opportunities to **speak to sixth form students**, see examples of their work and ask questions about subjects (option choices)
- Life in the Sixth Form - Learn more about **extra** and **super-curricular offers**, tour the school
- Sixth form leadership team will be on hand to answer any questions and offer advice





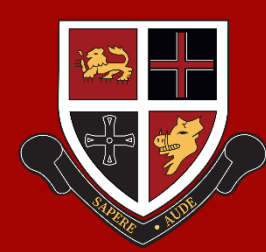
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Year 11
January 2026

Year 11 Parents Information Meeting

Ms. Baden Semper

English Language Lead



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

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

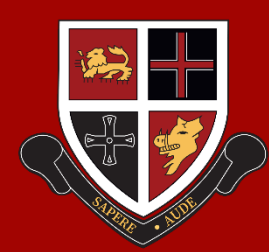
- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

What's assessed

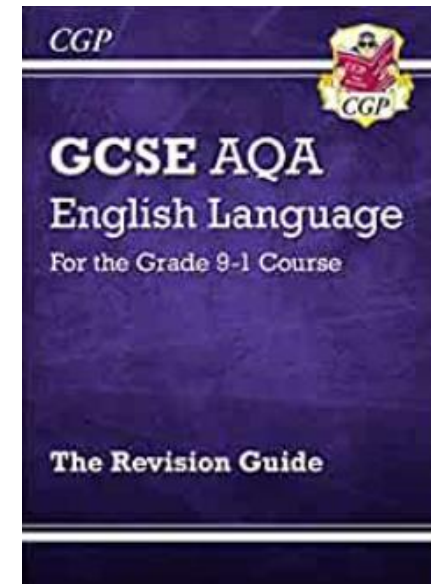
Mock Exam =
Paper One
Section A: Reading (1 hour)
Section B: Writing (45 mins)

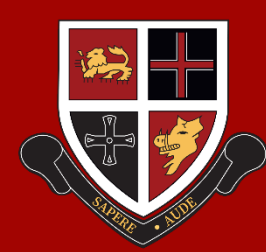
- marked by teacher
- separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)



Ways to help your children revise:

1. Remind them to look at past targets in their books and on their past exams.
2. Remind them to look in the class files of Teams for all of the lessons and extra revision materials.
3. Encourage them to attempt the practice exams in their booklets and assess them using the mark schemes.
4. Encourage them to ask their teacher for help if necessary and/or attend intervention or drop-in sessions offered.
5. CGP Guides are available to buy on Parentpay and then are to be collected from the glass David Office straight after payment.
6. Access AQA Spotlight series on YouTube: [Spotlight](#)





Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

- [Shakespeare plays](#) (page 11)
- [The 19th-century novel](#) (page 11)

How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

- [Modern prose or drama texts](#) (page 11)
- [The poetry anthology](#) (page 12)
- [Unseen poetry](#) (page 12)

How it's assessed

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

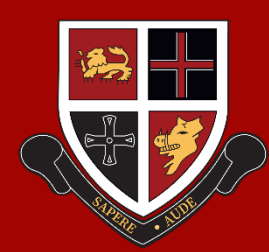
Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Mock Exam:
A: 'An Inspector Calls'
B: Power & Conflict Poetry
C: Unseen Poetry



Ways to help your children revise:

1. Encourage them to re-read or watch 'An Inspector Calls' and the 'Power and Conflict' poetry anthology of 15 poems.
2. Test them on key quotations.
3. Remind them to re-read past targets and exemplar answers they have been given.
4. Encourage them to try exam practice questions in their booklets or on Teams.
5. CGP Guides are available to buy on Parentpay and then are to be collected from the glass David Office straight after payment.
6. Access YouTube for revision videos on each text, such as: [analysis](#)





Year 11 Parents Information Meeting

Miss Whittock

Key Stage Four Maths Co-ordinator



Higher – Grades 9-4



GCSE
MATHEMATICS
(8300)

The Summer Exams

- 3 papers of similar difficulty
- 1 non calculator paper and 2 calculator papers
- 1 hour 30 minutes each
- Content from any part of the specification can be assessed on each paper
- Formula Sheets will be provided in the exams

[Higher Formula Sheet](#)



Edexcel - Foundation –
Grades 5-1

edexcel

GCSE (9-1) Mathematics

The Summer Exams

- 3 papers of similar difficulty
- 1 non calculator paper and 2 calculator papers
- 1 hour 30 minutes each
- Content from any part of the specification can be assessed on each paper
- Formula Sheets will be provided in the exams

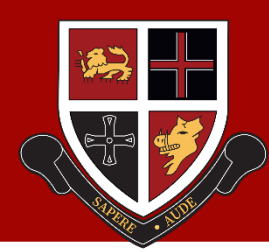
[Foundation Formula Sheet](#)



LEVEL 2
CERTIFICATE IN
FURTHER
MATHEMATICS
(8365)

For students who are on track to achieve grade 8 or 9 in GCSE Mathematics

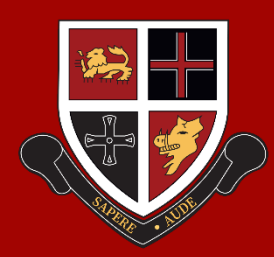
- We asked students to indicate interest in taking the Further Mathematics exam following the October mocks.
- There will be an in-class mock after this half term.
- **Focus on the GCSE Maths mock first.**



Equipment required

- Ruler
- Protractor
- Scientific Calculator
Casio ClassWiz FX-83GTCW
Casio ClassWiz FX-85GTCW
Casio ClassWiz FX-991CW





February Mocks

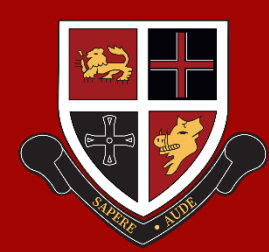
2 papers in exam hall:

1 non calculator paper and 1 calculator paper

1 calculator paper in-class following the mock period



**The best way to revise for
Maths is to do Maths!**



Sparx Maths – Online exercised and revision, all students have an account that they can access.

Corbett Maths – videos, worksheets, exam questions, exam papers (www.corbettmaths.com)

Mr Morley Maths [Mr Morley Maths](http://www.mrmorleymaths.co.uk) www.mrmorleymaths.co.uk

Dr Frost Maths [Dr Frost Learning](http://www.dr frost.org) www.dr frost.org

Revision material will be provided by the maths department



Revision sessions

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 2:45pm – 3:45pm in the Maths department.

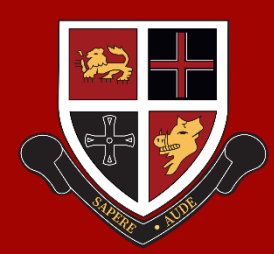
These are running now and will continue for the rest of the year.

Lunchtime support available on selected days.



Maths Support Timetable

	Late Lunch 13:00-13:45		After School 14:45-15:45	
Monday	KS4 Foundation Revision MA5 Mrs Emsley	KS4 Higher Revision Ma7 Mr. Smith		
Tuesday	Y9/10/11 Sparx Maths support IT4 Miss Whittock		KS4 support MA5 Mrs Emsley	
Wednesday			KS4 Foundation support MA7 Mrs Urwin/Mrs McFadden	KS4 Higher support MA1 Mrs Knights
Thursday	Y9/10/11 Sparx Maths support MA7 Mr Smith		KS4 support MA7 Mr Smith	
Friday			KS4 support MA5 Mrs Emsley	



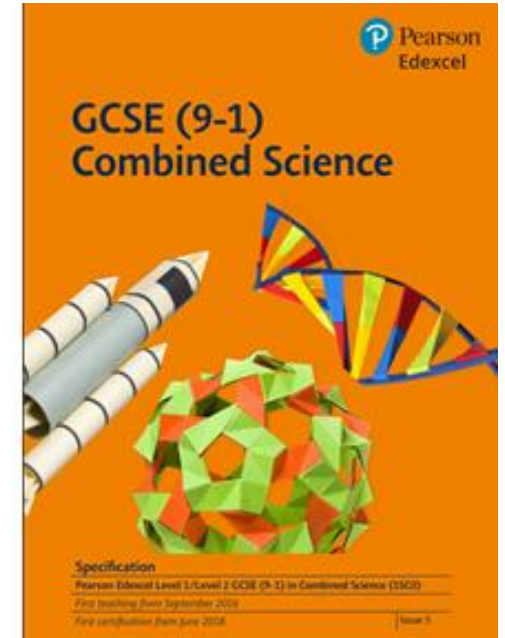
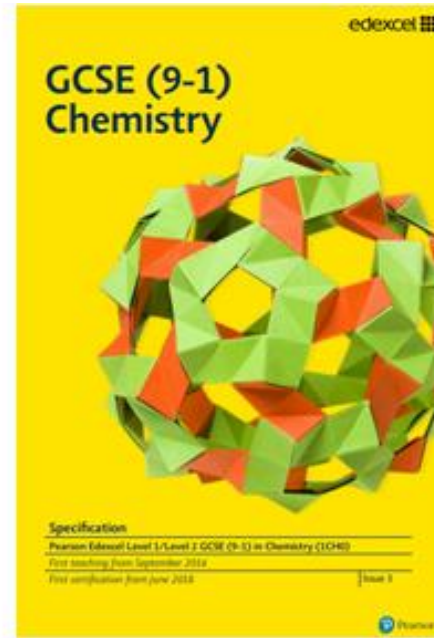
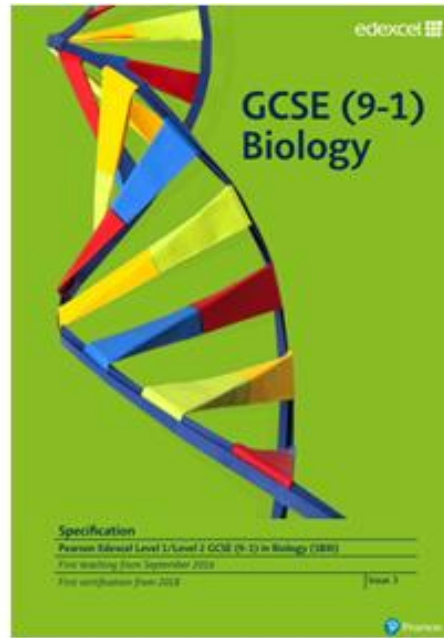
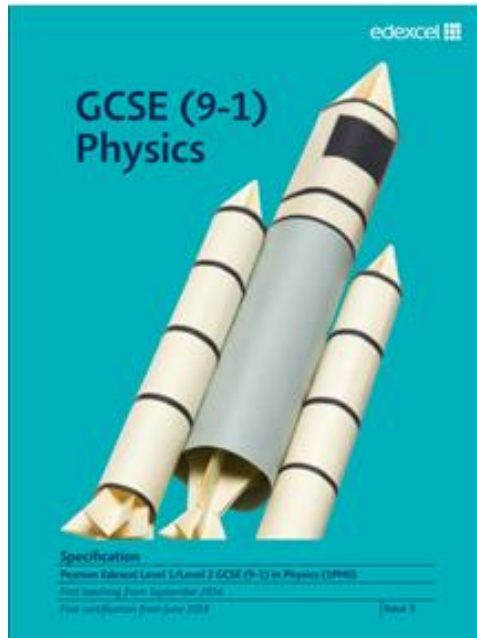
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Year 11
January 2026

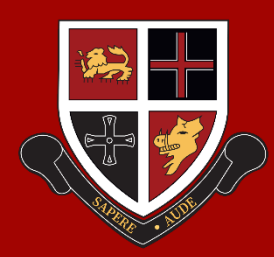
Year 11 Parents Information Meeting

Mr Middleton

Subject Leader for Science

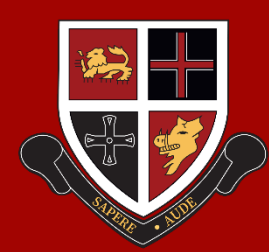


[Link to Specifications](#)



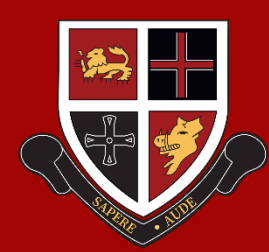
Combined Science Higher and Foundation

- 6 papers each 70 minutes in length two for each science
- Mocks will cover 50% of the course in each science
- 3 papers each 70 minutes in length one for each science
- Specific detail of content to be shared via teams.
- Arrives at a 2 number grade which is 2 GCSEs (e.g., 99 98 88 87 etc)



Separate Sciences – Higher or a mix of Higher and Foundation

- Two papers each 105 minutes in length for a separate science GCSE.
- Mocks will cover 50% of the course in each science one, 105 minute paper for each subject
- Specific detail of content to be shared via teams.
- Each subject is awarded a grade 9-1
- 3 GCSEs in total



Combined Science Mock Content – February 2026

Biology – Paper 1 Topics

Topic 1 Key concepts
Topic 2 Cells and control
Topic 3 Genetics
Topic 6 Plant Structures and their functions
Topic 7 Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
Topic 8 Exchange and transport in animals
Topic 9 Ecosystems and material cycles

Chemistry – Paper 1 Topics

Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry
Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures
Topic 3 – Chemical changes (Except electrolysis)
Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria (Except recycling and LCA)

Physics – Paper 2 Topics

CP7: Energy – forces doing work
CP8: Forces and their effects
CP9: Electricity and circuits
CP10: Magnetism and the motor effect
CP11: Electromagnetic induction
CP12: Particle model



Separate Science Mock Content – February 2026

Biology – Paper 1 Topics

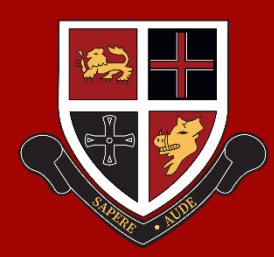
- Topic 1 Key concepts
- Topic 2 Cells and control
- Topic 3 Genetics
- Topic 6 Plant Structures and their functions
- Topic 7 Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
- Topic 8 Exchange and transport in animals
- Topic 9 Ecosystems and material cycles

Chemistry – Paper 1 Topics

- Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry
- Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures
- Topic 3 – Chemical changes (Except electrolysis)
- Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria (Except recycling and LCA)
- Topic 5 – Separate chemistry 1 (Except Transition metals, corrosion and fuel cells)

Physics – Paper 2 Topics

- SP8: Energy – forces doing work
- SP9: Forces and their effects
- SP10: Electricity and circuits
- SP11: Static electricity
- SP12: Magnetism and the motor effect
- SP13: Electromagnetic induction



Changes to tiers of entry (H/F) or course of entry (separates/combined) may be made based on outcomes of mocks.

Decisions will be made in the interests of students and on supporting them in securing their best outcome in the summer exams.



Support provided by the Science department

We do still have a limited number of revision guides available in school to purchase. Please speak to Mr Banner in Sc2 for availability. Combined Science £13, Separate Sciences £6.50 per book (1 book per science). These prices are a significant reduction on the normal pricing.

There is a year 11 group on Microsoft Teams – This will be used to communicate key revision materials and timings of support sessions.

Drop-in sessions to support revision at the following times:

Biology: Tuesday after school Sc7

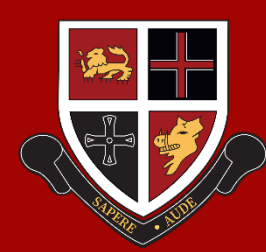
Chemistry separates: Wednesday after school Sc3

Chemistry combined higher: Thursday after school Sc11

Chemistry combined foundation: Wednesday after school Sc11

Chemistry General Drop in: Friday lunch En4

Physics: Thursday after school Sc9



Ways to help your child revise:

1. Talk to them about how they are revising, is their revision active? Is their revision helping them to recall information?

2. Remind them to use the online support available, look on Teams, and to use Seneca to support revision.

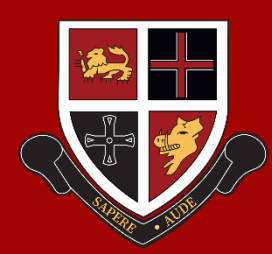
3. Attempt practice exams questions, answer with no notes, review in different colour with notes then check with the mark scheme.

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/biology-revision/gcse-edexcel/>

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/chemistry-revision/gcse-edexcel/>

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/physics-revision/gcse-edexcel/>

4. Encourage them to ask their teacher for help if necessary and/or attend support sessions.



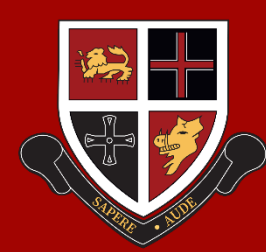
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Year 11
January 2026

Year 11 Parents Information Meeting

Mr Bray

Subject Leader for RE



Component 1: Study of Religions (50%)	Component 2: Ethical Themes (50%)
Jewish Beliefs and Teachings (Year 10)	Theme A: Relationships and Families (Year 9)
Jewish Practices (Year 10)	Theme B: Religion and Life (Year 10)
Christian Beliefs and Teachings (Year 11)	Theme E: Crime and Punishment (Year 9)
Christian Practices (Year 11)	Theme F: Human Rights (Year 9)
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 96 marks + 6 SPaG marks	Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 96 marks + 3 SPaG marks

Questions

- Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 1, 4, 6 and 12 marks.
- Each theme is marked out of 24.
- Component 2 students must answer 4 themes from a choice of 6.

**The mock exam will cover Christian Beliefs, Practices, and Themes A & B
The final exam is not tiered and there is no coursework/NEA**



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES A

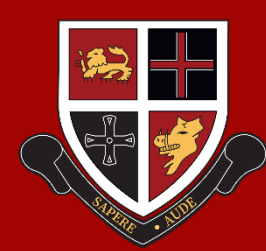
8062

Specification

For teaching from September 2016 onwards
For GCSE exams in 2018 onwards

Version 1.2 10 November 2017





The **Mock Exam** will contain 4 themes. Each theme will include 5 sub-questions:

AO1: Knowledge and Understanding (50%)

The 1 Mark Multiple Choice Question

The 1-mark question is always a multiple-choice question with four answers to choose from. It will always include the command words: **'Which one of the following...'**

The 1 Mark 'Give' Question

Always begin with the command words: **'Give two...'** or **'Name two...'**

The 4 Mark Question (For Religions paper only)

In the Religions Paper (Judaism), the 4-mark question will always begin with the command words: **'Explain two...'**. You will be asked to explain two ways that a belief **influences** the religious person; in other words, how does the beliefs affect their thoughts, words, actions, behaviour etc. **Use Point – Explain (x2)**

The 4 Mark Question (For the Ethical Themes paper only)

In the Ethical Themes Paper (e.g., Crime and Punishment), the 4-mark question will always begin with the command words: **'Explain two...'**. You will be asked to explain **two contrasting religious beliefs about an issue**. You can include two contrasting Christian beliefs or two different religions (e.g., Christianity and Judaism). You cannot refer to atheism. Remember to specify the religion – do not simply write 'some people believe...' as this is too vague! **Use Point – Explain (x2)**

The 6 Mark Question

Like the 4-mark question, the 6-mark question will always begin with the command words: **'Explain two...'**. In addition, it will also ask you to **'Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer'**. **Use Point – Explain + Point – Explain + Source, Evidence and Apply (PE, PE, SEA)**

AO2: Analysis and Evaluation (50%)

The 12 Mark Question always begin with a quotation, followed by the command words: **'Evaluate this statement'**. Remember to follow the **ABCD** structure:

Paragraph 1:

A A religious view to **AGREE** with the statement

B **BACK UP** with reasons and evidence

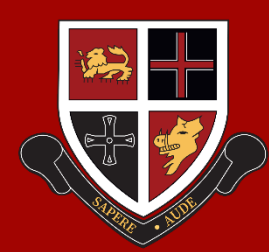
Paragraph 2:

C A religious that **CHALLENGES** the statement and puts forward **counterarguments** (back up with reasons/evidence)

Paragraph 3:

D **Your DECISION** which perspective is more convincing and explain your own view about the statement.

One minute per mark!



Useful resources for RE Revision

- **AQA** website contains a wealth of support materials for GCSE RS
- **Quizlet** is an excellent resource for revising Key Concept Vocabulary
- The **RE Podcast** contains numerous episodes that are relevant to the GCSE. A new episode is added weekly
<https://www.therepodcast.co.uk>
- **BBC Bitesize** and the BBC Podcast **The Moral Maze**
- **RE Department** has produced detailed **revision resources** for students to use – including revision booklets, teacher PowerPoint podcasts and past paper questions/mark schemes. Available on **MS Teams**
- **RE Drop-in sessions** every Wednesday afterschool, 2:45-3:45pm



How you can help your child revise for RE?

- Test them on their key concept vocabulary and religious evidence
- Encourage them to use the AQA online resources page, Teams and their revision booklets
- Watch the news (and discuss) with your child
- Encourage ethical debate and discussion – GCSE Religious Studies awards 50% of the marks for analysis and evaluation



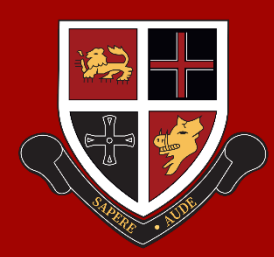
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Year 11
January 2026

Year 11 Parents Information Meeting

Mr Blake

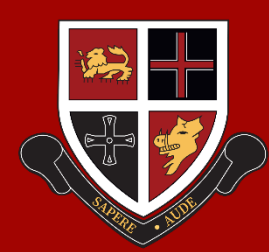
Year Leader



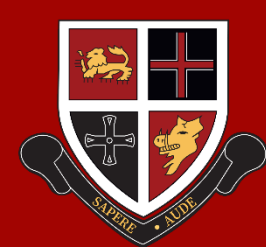
Firstly, a thank you.

We are fast approaching such an important time for your young people, please reach out if you need support with anything.

As you heard from our excellent team of form tutors, we are working hard to support students to revise for their exams and look after themselves too.



SUBJECT	Info	MONDAY PM	TUESDAY PM	WEDNESDAY PM	THURSDAY PM	FRIDAY PM
ART	TBC (2X days needed)					
BUSINESS	After school x 3 - Invited			IT1		
COMPUTER SCIENCE	Drop-in after 05/05/25		Invited			
D&T	Weekly		GR2	GR2	GR2	
DRAMA	Weekly (until 7th May)			EN7	EN7	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Weekly		Class teacher	Class teacher	Class teacher	Class teacher
ENGLISH LITERATURE	Weekly	See your teacher	See your teacher	See your teacher	EN1	
FOOD & NUTRITION	Weekly			GR2	GR2	
GEOGRAPHY	Invited students			GG3		
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	Weekly		IT4		IT4	
HISTORY	Invited & Drop-in		Invited	Drop-in	Drop-in	
MATHS	Invited, Drop-in, Tier		14:45PM>15:30PM	2:45PM >3:45PM	2:45PM >3:45PM	2:45PM >3:45PM
MUSIC	Drop-in					
PE	Weekly	PE CLASSROOM				
VOCATIONAL PE	Weekly	PE CLASSROOM				
RE	Drop-in			2:45PM >3:45PM		
SCIENCE BIOLOGY	Weekly				SC8	
SCIENCE CHEMISTRY	Invited & Drop-in		Separate Sciences	Combined Sciences		
SCIENCE PHYSICS	Invited & Drop-in				Combined & Seperate	
SPANISH	Weekly		2:45PM>4:00PM			



Y11 INTERVENTION TIMETABLE - LUNCHTIME

SUBJECT	ROOM	Info	MONDAY LUNCH	TUESDAY LUNCH	WEDNESDAY LUNCH	THURSDAY LUNCH	FRIDAY LUNCH
ART	ART	TBC (2X days needed)					
BUSINESS	IT1	All				Drop-in	
COMPUTER SCIENCE	IT2	3 - Invited	Drop-in	Invited			
D&T	GR2	Invited & Drop-in		1:00PM>1:45PM			
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	g Rm.	Drop-in	Drop-in	Drop-in	Invited	Drop-in	Drop-in
ENGLISH LITERATURE	g Rm.	Drop-in	Drop-in	Drop-in	Drop-in	Drop-in	Drop-in
GCSE ENGINEERING	TEP	Drop-in					1:00PM>1:45PM
FRENCH	LA9	Drop-in	1:00PM>1:45PM				1:00PM>1:45PM
GEOGRAPHY	GG5	Drop-in	1:00PM>1:25PM				1:00PM>1:25PM
GERMAN	LA3	Weekly			1:00PM>1:45PM	1:00PM>1:45PM	
HISTORY	HI4	Invited & Drop-in	Drop-in				
MATHS	teachers	Invited, Drop-in			13:00PM>13:35PM		
MUSIC	MU2/3	Drop-in		1:00PM>1:45PM	1:00PM>1:45PM		
VOCATIONAL CONSTRUCTION	TRM GR1	Drop-in				1:00PM>1:45PM	



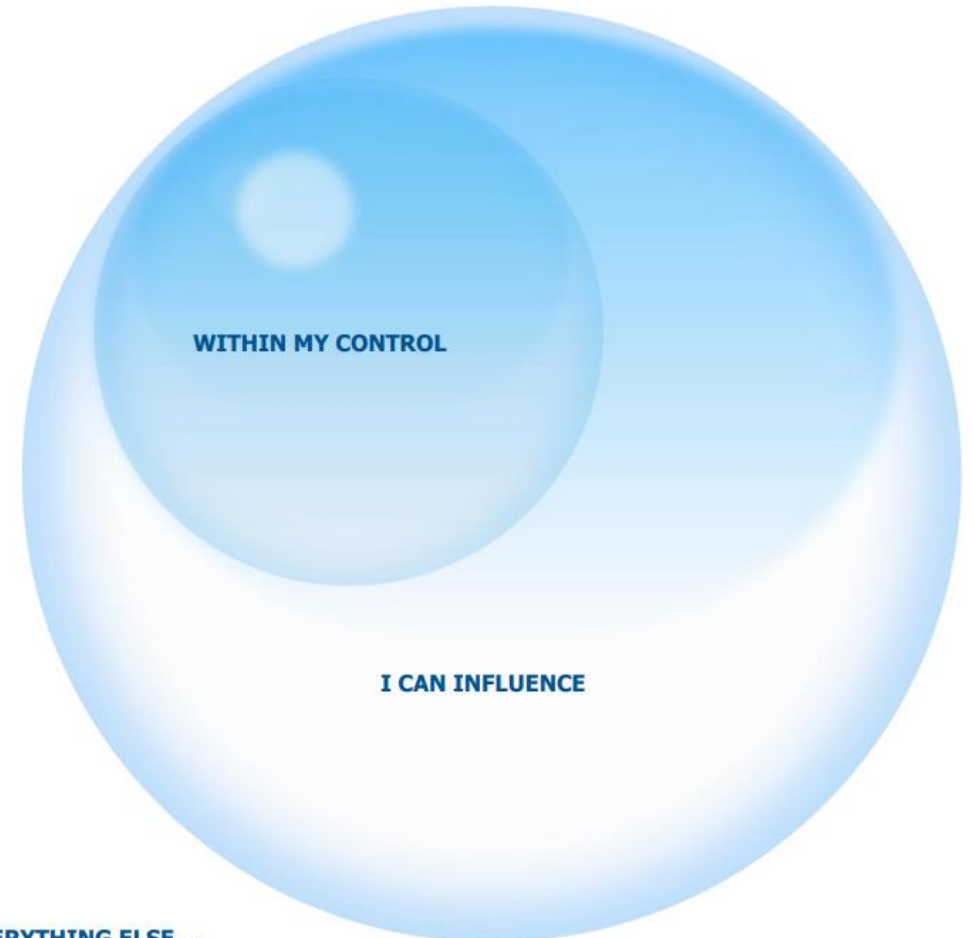
Gaining Perspective and The Sphere of Influence

- Exam questions/exam dates
- Revision/when to start revision
- Weekly timetable
- Healthy sleep habits
- School attendance
- Responding to teacher feedback
- Revision session attendance
- Healthy eating habits
- Exercise

What can you control? What habits can you form to influence these things?

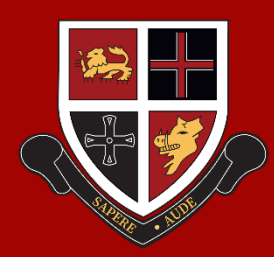
What can you not control? How can you reframe these worries?

EVERYTHING ELSE...



EVERYTHING ELSE...

EVERYTHING ELSE...



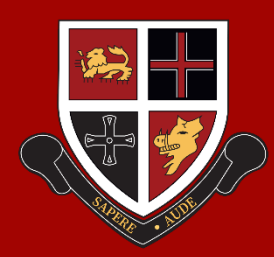
DURHAM JOHNSTON
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
DARE TO BE WISE

Year 11
January 2026

Year 11 Parents Information Meeting

Mr Bowman

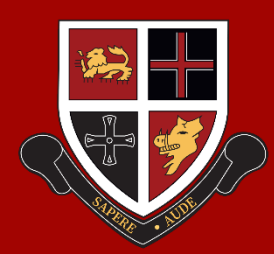
Key Stage Four Lead



DURHAM JOHNSTON
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
DARE TO BE WISE

Year 11
January 2026

**Destinations are the
most important factor**



**Thank you for your ongoing
support and for your
attendance this evening.**