

Year 10 Parent Information Evening

Tuesday 3rd December 2024



Courage Commitment Compassion

Staff and roles

Year team

- Year 10 Progress and Achievement Leader (PAL) - **Ms Lebreton**
- Year 10 Deputy Progress and Achievement Leader (DPAL) - **Ms Doubravska**
- Year 10 Assistant Head teacher (Year 10) - **Ms Nash**
- Assistant Head teacher (Pastoral) - **Mr Gurd**

Curriculum Team Leaders

- Curriculum Team Leader (English) - **Ms Gera**
- Curriculum Team Leader (Maths) - **Mr Ali**
- Curriculum Team Leader (Science) - **Mr Obembe**



Structure of the evening

Part 1

- Core curriculum
- Student expectations
- Minimum Estimated Grades

Part 2

- How does learning happen?
- Effective revision strategies
- Structuring revision
- Supporting your child with their studying at home
- Q&A



English



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GCSE English Language and Literature

Our vision is ... *“To challenge our students to become open-minded, creative and articulate thinkers who love to read, write and explore the world around them”*

- Linear course
- One tier exam
- 100% exam
- Greater emphasis on 19th century literature
- Closed book exam for Literature



What are we studying in English?

English Language

Paper 1 - 50%, 1 hour 45 minutes
Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2 - 50%, 1 hour 45 minutes
Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Non-examination assessment
Spoken Language

English Literature

Paper 1 - 40%, 1 hour 45 minutes
Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

Paper 2 - 60%, 2 hours 15 minutes
Modern texts and poetry



English Language and English Literature

	English Language	English Literature
Papers	Paper 1 - Section A & B Paper 2 - Section A & B	Paper 1 - Shakespeare and 19th century novel Paper 2 - Modern texts, poetry and unseen poetry
Content	Year 10 - Paper 1 Section A & B Year 11 - Paper 1 Section A & B	Year 10 - Macbeth, A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls, Unseen Poetry, Cluster Poetry Year 11 - Cluster Poetry Year 11- Revision
Assessments	Formative and summative assessments in class Year 10 Mocks in June - Language Paper 1	



How can you support your child at home?

How can you help at home?

- Discuss what they have learnt that day. This helps the recall of key information
- Provide reading materials - newspapers, novels, ask them about what they have read
- Encourage them to read around a topic. This helps identify similarities and differences, develop comparison and critical skills
- Encourage them to take initiative, extend the learning to the wider world
- Ensure homework is completed

Revision books to purchase

- A Christmas Carol - York Notes
- Macbeth - York Notes
- Love and relationships - York Notes
- Books - A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls, Macbeth

- CGP AQA English Language practice exam papers
- AQA GCSE English Language Grades 5-9 Student Book



English Revision Resources

- Read a page from <https://recommendmeabook.com/>
- Google Classroom - speak to your teacher for the classroom code
- Mr. Bruff: www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff
- Mrs. Whelan: www.youtube.com/@MrsWhelansEnglish

- Non-fiction reading
 - Broadsheet newspapers
 - Auto biographies
 - Biographies
 - Speeches



Century Tech

Students can continue to take ownership of their learning, reviewing understanding of content and skills using the information slides, videos, and practice questions.

English teachers will be able to monitor and analyse use of Century to identify common misconceptions, students that need further support or challenge, and adapt our teaching to support all our students to progress towards their potential.



Maths



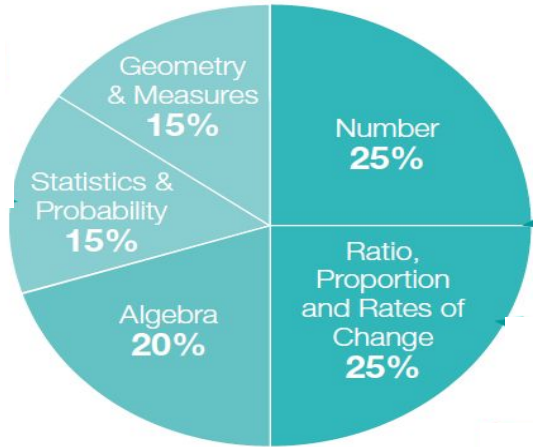
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GCSE Mathematics - Edexcel 1MA1

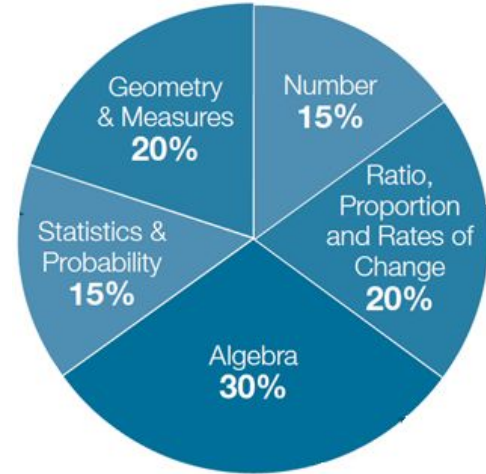
- Greater focus on problem solving.
- Requirement to provide clear mathematical arguments
- New added content at both Higher and Foundation level
- Fewer formulae provided - students are expected to remember them!



Foundation and Higher tier



- Grades 1 - 5 available
- Number, ratio and proportion counts for 50% of the exam



- Grades 3 - 9 available
- More content has been added in order to stretch and challenge the most able students



Homework in Maths

Some strategies and questions you should try at home:

- High quality completion is crucial for success within Maths.
- Homework is set every week and is mandatory. It is important for students to understand that learning doesn't stop when they leave the classroom.
- Homework in Maths this year (like last year) will be set online using Sparx.
- After the November mocks, homework will include weekly papers.



Home learning using Sparx Maths and useful websites



<https://sparxmaths.com>

<https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/>



Year 10 assessment

- Once every 2 - 3 weeks - end of unit test
- December mocks - All students in Year 10 will sit **two condensed GCSE exam papers** (12th December and 9th January)- topic list will be provided for key topics only
- March/April mocks - All students in Year 10 will sit **two GCSE exam papers** - topic list will be provided for key topics only
- End of year (June 24th) - All students in Year 10 will sit **three GCSE exam papers - topic list will not be provided**



Science



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Science

There are two GCSE Science courses running in Year 10:

- Combined Science (Trilogy)
- Separate Sciences (Triple)

The exam board that is used is AQA for both courses.

There will be regular assessment in class to track student progress.



Combined Science (Double)

There is no coursework for these GCSEs

What's assessed

Biology paper 1- Biology topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology paper 2- Biology topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry paper 1 - Chemistry topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

Chemistry paper 2- Chemistry topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Physics paper 1- Physics topics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Physics paper 2- Physics topics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

All papers will consist of : multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

	How many exam papers are there for each GCSE?	How long is each exam?	How many marks is each paper worth?	How many experiments need to be carried out and learnt for the exams?
Biology	2 papers	1 hour 15 minutes	70 marks	8 experiments
Chemistry	2 papers	1 hour 15 minutes	70 marks	7 experiments
Physics	2 papers	1 hour 15 minutes	70 marks	8 experiments

Exam dates:

Biology paper 1: May 2026

Biology paper 2: June 2026

Chemistry paper 1: May 2026

Chemistry paper 2: June 2026

Physics paper 1: May 2026

Physics paper 2: June 2026



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Separate Science (Triple)

There is no coursework for these GCSEs

What's assessed

Biology paper 1– Topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology paper 2– Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry paper 1 - Topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes

Chemistry paper 2- Topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Physics paper 1-Topics 1-4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure

Physics paper 2- Topics 5-8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics

All papers will consist of : multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

	How many exam papers are there for each GCSE?	How long is each exam?	How many marks is each paper worth?	How many experiments need to be carried out and learnt for the exams?
Biology	2 papers	1 hour 45 minutes	100 marks	10 experiments
Chemistry	2 papers	1 hour 45 minutes	100 marks	8 experiments
Physics	2 papers	1 hour 45 minutes	100 marks	10 experiments

Exam dates:

Biology paper 1: May 2026

Biology paper 2: June 2026

Chemistry paper 1: May 2026

Chemistry paper 2: June 2026

Physics paper 1: May 2026

Physics paper 2: June 2026



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Support in Science

1. Century Tech Home Learning
2. Form time Intervention with Mr Obembe
3. Classroom targeted intervention and support
4. Exam practice sessions - followed by targeted and specific feedback to address misconceptions and misunderstandings

Science teachers will be able to monitor and analyse use of Century to identify common misconceptions, students that need further support or challenge, and adapt our teaching to support all our students to progress towards their potential.

Combined Science - 6 learning nugget tasks set each week.
Triple Science - 8 learning nugget tasks set each week.

Students can continue to take ownership of their learning, reviewing understanding of topics using the information slides, videos, and practice questions.

Your support as parents with reinforcing attendance at interventions and completion of home learning in focused study environments is greatly appreciated.



Student expectations



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Attendance matters

0 days 100%	83.7%
2.5 days 98%	76.3%
5 days 97%	61.1%
7.5 days 96%	44.3%
10 days 95%	33.7%

Source: [The link between absence and attainment at KS2 and KS4](#)



What do the most successful students do?

They are ...

- On time for school and lessons everyday.
- Organised and have all of their equipment.
- Engaged in every lesson.
- Polite, respectful and focused.
- Completing all work set both in the classroom and at home.
- Revising what they have learnt each week.



Minimum Estimated Grades



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Minimum Estimated Grades (MEG)

- The **minimum** estimated grade for each GCSE and vocational subject.
- Based on similar pupils who took the same GCSEs in the past.
- By similar, we mean pupils from the same prior attainment, gender and month of birth.
- Prior attainment is measured using KS2 tests or Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)

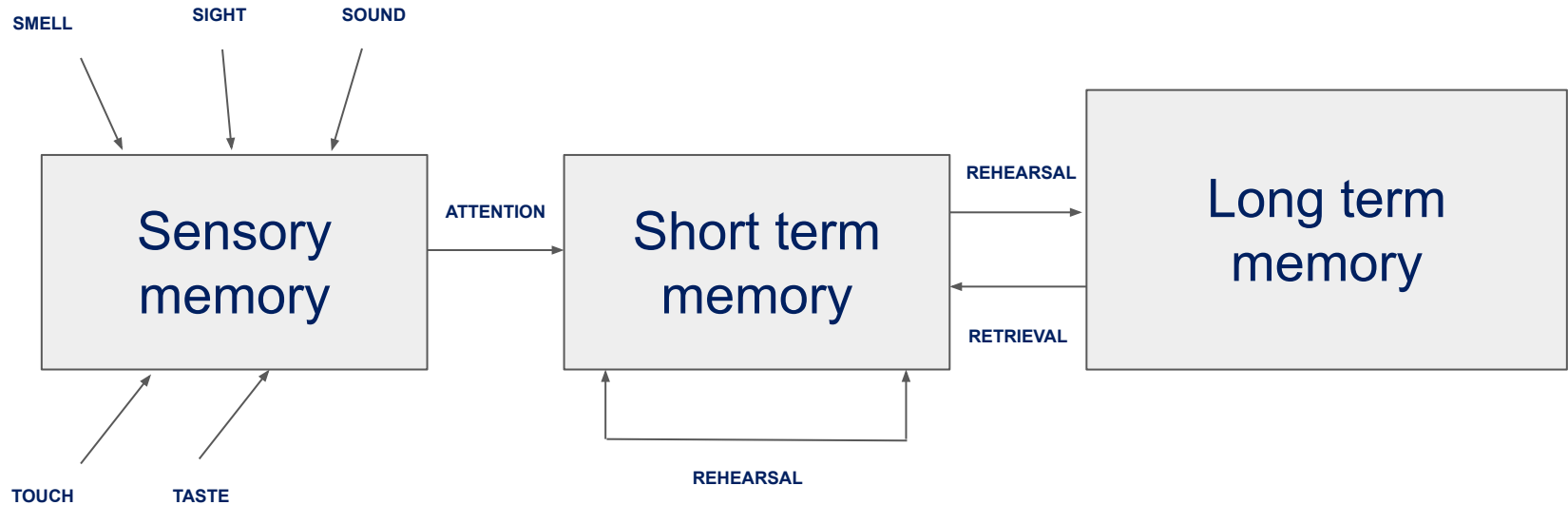


*Learning is a change in long
term memory*



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How learning happens



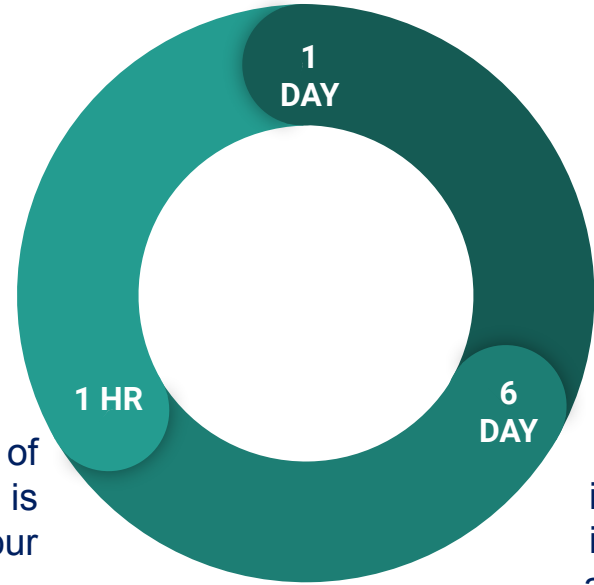
Effective revision strategies



Practice makes permanent

- As soon as we learn something new, we start to forget it. This is known as a the '**forgetting curve**'.
- It is only through repeated revision of new material that we strengthen our retrieval from long term memory.

Roughly 56% of information is forgotten in one hour



Roughly 66% of information is forgotten after one day

Roughly 75% of information is forgotten after 6 days



Memory dumps

Choose a topic to focus on

Spend 5 minutes writing down everything you remember

Read over revision notes or your exercise book to find missing information

Add missed information onto your memory dump in a **different colour**

Repeat again at a later date. Did you remember more?



Revision cards

- Flashcards are an excellent revision tool when used effectively.
- They should **not be used** to write lots of notes.
- They **should be used** to test knowledge, e.g. keywords on one side and definitions on the other.

ATTRITION

The action of rock fragments colliding into each other causing them to become smaller and rounder over time.



The Leitner method

- A great way to use flashcards is by prioritising them so that you focus on topics that you find more challenging.
- This method is called the Leitner method - you can find lots of [videos on YouTube](#) showing you how to do this.
- Correctly answered flashcards are moved up boxes (or piles) and are revisited less often, while incorrect questions move down boxes and are practiced more often.



Practice exam questions

- Get use to the structure and language used in an exam.
- Work on time management.
- Understand the allocation of marks and the markscheme.
- Good way to practice writing.
- Helps to identify gaps in knowledge.



The Dos and Don'ts of revision



The Dos and Don'ts

- Do **practice** regularly.
- Do **space** your practice.
- Do **test** your memory.
- Do get **feedback**.
- Do revise in **quiet** surroundings.
- Do take regular **breaks**.
- Do **eat** and **sleep** well.

- Don't **cram** the night before.
- Don't **passively** read and highlight notes.
- Don't just **rewrite** notes.
- Don't revise with a **phone**.



Structuring revision



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Weekday revision timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 - 5pm	English	Maths	Science	English	Maths
5 - 6pm	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
6 - 7pm	History/ Geography	Languages	History/ Geography	Languages	Science
7 - 8pm	Option 1	Option 2	Option 1	Option 2	Free choice
8 - 9pm	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break



Weekend revision timetable

	Saturday	Sunday
10 - 11am	English	English
11 - 12am	Maths	Maths
12 - 1pm	Science	Science
1 - 2pm	Break	Break
3 - 4pm	History/ Geography	Option 1
4 - 5pm	Languages	Option 2

Weekday timetable = 15 hours
Weekend timetable = 10 hours

Weekly total revision = 25 hours

Over the next 4 weeks

100 hours



Supporting your child



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Supporting your child

- Encourage them to revise regularly.
- Remind them of using effective revision strategies.
- Ask them questions.
- Be positive and praise their efforts.
- Monitor their mobile phone use.
- Support them to eat and sleep well.
- Encourage them to use the school library.

A Parent's Guide to Revision



Have a plan

Each child is different but during term time your child should be setting aside approximately 2 hours per night to revise and more during the school holidays.

Divide revision sessions into 40 - 50 minute sessions with a 5 - 10 minute break.

Know what to revise

Knowing what to revise is essential. Your child should know what topics are included in the exam board specification. They should know what they need to improve on so they can focus their time on what they find more difficult.

Use the right resources

Your child should be using the following resources to revise:

- Exercise books and textbooks
- Revision guides
- Flashcards
- Quizzes and mini tests
- Practice exam questions

Use the right strategies

Passively reading materials and highlighting notes is **not** a good revision strategy. Your child should be **testing their memory** through quizzes, tests and exam questions.

Find out more about effective revision strategies from www.learningscientists.org/videos

Revise *smarter*

Many students confuse how hard they are working with how well they are working. Revising smarter means:

- Spending more time on difficult topics
- Regularly testing memory and getting feedback

Build resilience

Revising smarter will feel more difficult. Your child may say "I can't" or "I won't".

Remind your child that their best is good enough. Encourage them, be positive and praise their effort.

Other top tips ...

- Remove distractions. Find a quiet place to study and turn off the phone!
- Make it a habit. Revise each day to make it easier and less daunting.
- Get a good night's sleep. Sleep is needed to improve memory and reduce stress.
- Eat well and exercise. This will reduce stress, improve memory and increase wellbeing.

