



4th November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer and students in year 11

Preparation for the Year 11 examinations in English, Maths and Science

With the mock examinations fast approaching (w/c November 11th 2019), included in this letter is some guidance for students from the English, Maths and Science Departments on effective preparation. Much of this advice applies to other subjects. All students have access to www.doddlearn.co.uk, which has presentations, revision resources and quizzes for all of the content for all three subjects. The booklet from the Countdown to Success Evening is available on the school website, with information on all subjects, including exam board websites.

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/countdown-to-success/>

It is important that students take time to look after their mental health and wellbeing during Year 11, including:

- Scheduling in time to do something fun as well as revising
- Eat and drink healthily; plenty of water!
- Get a good night's sleep
- Try not to use mobile phones before bed, to let your mind rest

To prepare for English Language:

- Read – the focus is on reading fiction and non-fiction texts so reading for pleasure is actually a good way to broaden your vocabulary, revise the structure of novels/letters/newspaper articles etc. and see a range of punctuation and paragraphing structures being used.
- Practise writing...describe a place you've been, your room, the qualities you look for in a friend; you could google search for interesting pictures and use those as a base for description.
- Use the blurbs of books and create your own narrative; a good way would be to write an opening for the novel...you could then compare it to the actual opening to see if you've used any similar techniques.
- Argue...write your parents a really persuasive letter; try to convince them to let you go to that party or to buy you the latest computer game...they still may not let you but it's all revision!
- Use Mr Bruff – he has created videos that explore the new GCSE paper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch-XgnluOf4>. This link takes you to paper 1, question 1 and then the others are available in the box down the right hand side.
- Use the exam board website: AQA English Language and have a look at past papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports. Try doing the questions and then having a look at the mark scheme and the answers they suggest you could've given.

To prepare for English Literature:

- Read your key texts – a lot! Remember it is closed book so everything you can remember is vital. You can watch any versions that there may be of the texts but remember that they often change things or miss things out so test yourself and try to spot the differences.
- Make note cards, mind maps, lists, character profiles, post it notes etc. to remember key themes, quotes/references, character traits, structures, writer's techniques...
- Create revision mats with key characters, themes, quotes, context etc.
- Condense your class notes on texts and poems – as you will only have poem titles to spur your memory try creating mind maps around each title.
- Record yourself talking through your notes and listen back to it.
- Use audio books and YouTube videos such as Mr Bruff; again, he has some new videos that deal with the new papers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWoR3gMLVvw> (although some of his older ones that deal with set texts would still be valuable).

- Use revision notes/guides, practice questions and your exercise books from your class.
- Practise questions and use the marking grids and feedback from your teachers to help you review your responses – again, these can be found on the AQA website under GCSE English Literature.
- Students can also follow Mrs Brown’s twitter account: <https://twitter.com/MrsBee98885769> for revision ideas, prompts, tasks etc.

To prepare for Science:

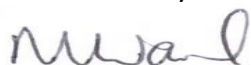
- Don’t just read your notes or revision guide! You must do something active; use the revision guides, to read the notes and then complete the revision exercises at the end of each chapter.
- Don’t just work on the bits you are already confident with. Focus on your weaker areas using the revision guide and other resources, such as www.doddlelearn.co.uk, <https://www.senecalearning.com/> and BBC Bitesize.
- Revise the Physics equations using the sheet you have been emailed, and the 23 equations app.
- Apply your knowledge by completing past paper questions, using resources from the AQA website, shared area on science website and mathsandphysicstutor.com.
- Hone your maths skills – 20% of the total marks will come from testing your maths skills.
- Learn the required practicals. 15% of the total marks will be from questions about these so learn the definitions of key scientific terms used, create a brief outline of the methods, key equipment used and how the practical could be improved. Freescience Lessons website has very good videos to explain all the practicals.

To prepare for Maths:

- Do not make flash cards by just copying information from one place to another. If you want to use them, try to make the notes from memory and then check the information is correct. Equally, do not just read through your notes or your revision guide and think that it will stick. To revise maths, you need to do some maths.
- Do lots of practice questions. There are lots available on Mymaths, Mathswatch, Corbett maths, Hegarty Maths, Mr Barton Maths, Just Maths, BBC bitesize – the list is endless! There are also resources on the shared area under shared\maths\year 11 revision.
- Try not to just plough through past papers. Break them up into sections and concentrate on the type of questions that you struggle with. Equally, when using the revision guides, don't feel like you need to do all the questions from a particular topic. It works a lot better if you space out the questions over a number of months. This will also make use of the retrieval effect. It is important to revisit topics that you haven't studied for a while in order to make sure that you still understand them.
- Try not to reach for the answers if you get stuck, get a parent/friend/sibling to look at the first line of working and give you a pointer. Take a look back in your notes or revision guide for hints.
- You will sit 3 full papers: one non-calculator, and two calculator. In the mocks these are full papers, nothing added, nothing taken away. There will be some topics you have not yet covered; move on, and if there’s time go back and give them a decent shot!
- You will attempt all of the available papers in tests or lessons before you sit your final exams.

If you would like more guidance on supporting your child during Year 11, please do contact me, their Progress Leader Mr Hamer or their form tutor.

Yours faithfully



Miss M Ward

Assistant Headteacher

Email: ward@gegs.email

