

Key Stage 4 at KHS - Supporting your Child

Cyfnod allweddol 4 yn khs-cefnogi eich plentyn



Information for Parents and Carers

Gwybodaeth i rieni a gofalwyr

Over the last five years, standards at Key Stage 4 have continued to improve at KHS. Our pupils share the same ethos as the school and demonstrate high levels of engagement and motivation in their learning. A positive learning culture is embedded in the school, and this, along with consistently high quality teaching and learning, enables pupils to make excellent progress.

During Key Stage 4, parents and carers will be kept up to date with progress with interim and full reports and parents' evenings. All pupils will have many different assessments throughout Key Stage 4, including internal and external examinations and controlled assessment tasks.

This booklet aims to...

- Explain key dates and advice for parents and carers
- Provide ideas for what can be done at home to help
- Outline sources of further support and information

What we do to support revision in school

- Pupils will be provided with advice regarding revision techniques by their subject teachers. They will also be provided with some revision materials, where appropriate, and directed to helpful sources of support.
- We provide additional revision sessions which pupils are encouraged to attend. These can take place at lunchtime and after school. Class teachers will make pupils aware when they are taking place.
- We provide additional revision support to certain pupils at risk of under achievement when necessary. This takes a variety of forms. Some pupils/classes may receive support during their lessons via an additional adult who may be a teacher or teaching assistant. Another form of support is when pupils are withdrawn from lessons to be taught by a teacher or a specialist teaching assistant in small groups.
- Prior to examinations Walking Talking Mocks (WTM) will run during the school day for all core subjects prior to exams.
- In addition to this, the Sixth Form Resource Area in Upper School is available from Monday to Thursday for an hour after school.

King Henry VIII School Community will work together to create an inclusive, safe and happy learning environment in which all are challenged and supported to achieve their potential. Everyone is committed to learning today for a fulfilling life tomorrow.

Assessment tasks, controlled assessments and examinations 2018-19

Entries in *italics* indicate final written examinations

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Maths			Maths Mock Exam Some pupils will sit a Numeracy Mock Date to be confirmed	Maths Mock Exam Numeracy Mock Exam Some pupils will sit: <i>GCSE Maths</i> <i>Unit 1</i> <i>12 November 2018</i> <i>Unit 2</i> <i>14 November 2018</i> <i>GCSE Numeracy</i> <i>Unit 1</i> <i>6 November 2018</i> <i>Unit 2</i> <i>8 November 2018</i>		<i>GCSE Maths</i> <i>Unit 1</i> <i>21 May 2019</i> <i>Unit 2</i> <i>6 June 2019</i> <i>GCSE Numeracy</i> <i>Unit 1</i> <i>7 May 2019</i> <i>Unit 2</i> <i>9 May 2019</i>

The school is an inclusive community with a caring ethos. It celebrates and rewards success and achievement.

ESTYN Inspection Report - 2014

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
English	Shakespeare Non Exam Assessment Macbeth October 2018 (12.5%) English Language Mock	Welsh Poetry Non Exam Assessment (12.5%)	English Language Mock Exam Unit 2 English Literature Unit 1 Exam 15 May 2019 (Of Mice and Men & Unseen Poetry) (35%)	Individual Presentation - Speaking and Listening Assessment (10%) English Language Unit 2 Mock November 2018 English Language Unit 3 Mock November 2018	Group Discussion – Speaking and Listening Assessment (10%) (Week beginning January 2019) Language Mock Exams Unit 2 Literature Mock Exam Unit 2b March 2019	English Literature Unit 1 RESIT 15 May 2019 (Not all pupils) (35%) English Literature (not all pupils) 23 May 2019 Unit 2b (40%) English Language 4 June 2019 Unit 2 (40%) English Language 7 June 2019 Unit 3 (40%)
Science			Unit 1 Biology (15%) Unit 2 Chemistry (15%) Unit 3 Physics (15%)		Unit 7 Practical exam (10%)	Unit 4 Biology (15%) Unit 5 Chemistry (15%) Unit 6 Physics (15%)

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Art	Coursework Deadline Unit 1 Researching and Planning, Design and making	Coursework Deadline Unit 1 Researching and Planning, Design and making	Coursework Deadline Unit 1 Researching and Planning, Design and making	Coursework Deadline Unit 1 Researching, Planning, Design and making – December 2018 MOCK exam December 2018	April 2019 External exam paper 40%	
Business	Preparation for Coursework assignment 3A – Promoting a Brand Deadline in early December 2018	Preparation for Coursework assignment 3B – Creating a Brand Deadline in February 2019	Work on Unit 2 – Finance Preparation for online test in July 2019	Unit 2 – Finance Online Test – October 2019 Date TBC Work on Unit 1 – Assignment 1A Deadline December 2018	Work on Unit 1 – Assignment 1B & 1C Deadlines 1B - Jan 2019 & 1C - Early March 2019	Work on Unit 6 – Assignment 6A & 6B Deadlines 6A - April 2019 & 6B - May 2019
D&T Product Design (NEW)				Unit 2 Non Exam Assessment Task 35 Hours (50%) (100 Marks) <i>Design and Make Task</i>		Unit 1 Written Exam 2 Hours (50%) (100 Marks) Design & Technology in the 21st Century

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
D&T Food & Nutrition				Unit 2 Non Exam Assessment Tasks 25 Hours (20% and 40%) (120 Marks) <i>Food & Nutrition in Action</i>		Unit 1 Written Exam 1 Hour 30 Minutes (40%) (80 Marks) Principles of Food & Nutrition
D&T BTEC Engineering		Unit 1 External Assessment On-Screen Test 1 Hour (30 GLH) (50 Marks) The Engineered World		Unit 2 Internal Assessment (30 GLH) Investigating an Engineered Product		
		Unit 6 Internal Assessment (30 GLH) Computer-Aided Engineering		Unit 3 Internal Assessment (30 GLH) Health & Safety in Engineering		
D&T GCSE Child Development				Unit 3 Controlled Assessment (30%) (60 Marks) Child Focused Task		Unit 1 Written Exam 1 Hour 30 Minutes (40%) (80 Marks) Principles of Child Development

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Drama			Begin work on Unit 1: Devising Theatre (40%) Performance	Unit 1: Devising Theatre (40%) Performance Controlled Assessment (Evaluation)	Unit 2: Performing Theatre (20%)	Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre (40%)
Geography				Fieldwork dates 1 st and 8 th October 2018 The Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) on the fieldwork will be taken during Nov/Dec This will be in high control conditions in class or USH.		Unit 1 examination Unit 2 examination
History				Unit 4 - Controlled Assessment (20%)		Unit 1 (25%) The USA: A nation of contrasts 1910-1920 Unit 2 (25%) Elizabethan Age 1558-1603 Unit 3 (30%) Changes in Crime and Punishment in Britain, C1500 to present day

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Health & Social Care	Unit 1 Preparation for Exam Written Exam – Jan 2019 Planning of Christmas Party for local Pensioners	Work on Unit 2 Assignment 2A Deadline February 2019	Work on Unit 2 Assignment 2B Deadline May 2019 Work Experience Placement July 2019	Final submission of Unit 2 September 2018 Work on unit 3 - Communication in H&SC Assignment 3A Deadline Nov 2018	Assignment 3B Deadline Jan 2019 Assignment 3C Deadline Feb 2019	Work on unit 6 Assignment 6A Deadline March 2019 Assignment 6B Deadline May 2019
BTEC ICT	<i>The Online World</i> <i>External</i> <i>examination</i> <i>(Duration – 1 hour</i> <i>online)</i> <i>25%</i>	Digital Graphics Internal 25%	Digital Graphics Internal	Digital Portfolio Internal 25%	Digital Video Internal 25%	Digital Video Internal

Teachers have good subject knowledge and positive working relationships with pupils.

ESTYN Inspection Report - 2014

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Music	<p>Performance assessment (mock) between October half term and Christmas.</p> <p>December mock examination on all areas of study completed so far.</p> <p>Composition 1 (for submission at the end of year 10) begins in November</p>	<p>Performance assessment (mock) between March and May.</p> <p>Hand in composition 1 completed so far for detailed marking and feedback</p>	<p>Performance assessment in June (mock) and first draft of programme note completed.</p> <p>Deadline for Composition 1 - end of June</p> <p>Summer mock examination on all of year 10 work.</p>	<p>Performance assessment (mock) in October. 2nd draft of programme note to be completed.</p> <p>Composition 1 returned with feedback 0 2 weeks to complete corrections.</p> <p>Examination (mock) in September to assess knowledge and gauge targeted revision.</p> <p>Composition 2 set.</p>	<p>Final performance for visiting examiner between March and May. Programme notes (final) to be submitted to examiner.</p> <p>Composition 1 and 2 submitted to examiners before Easter.</p> <p>Mock examination to assess knowledge and gauge targeted revision.</p>	<p><i>Final examination (appraising)</i></p>
French and Spanish			<p>Reading exam Listening exam Writing exam Speaking exam</p>	<p>Mock reading Mock listening Mock writing Mock oral</p>		<p>Reading paper Listening paper <i>Writing paper</i> Oral exam</p>

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
GCSE Physical Education	Internal examination	PEP coursework			GCSE PE Practical external examination (50%)	GCSE PE Theory external examination (50%)
BTEC Level 1/2	Unit 1 External Examination	Unit 2 – Practical Sports Performance coursework		Unit 5 – Training for Personal Fitness coursework		Unit 6 – Leading Sport Performance coursework
GCSE Religious Studies Full Course (Legacy)						Religion and life issues (re-sit) Religion and Human experience (all year 11 pupils) June 2018
GCSE Religious Studies Full Course (new specification)						Unit 1 examination Unit 2 examination
Sociology	End of term assessment – mock exam – part A of unit 1	Full mock assessment – achieved over two lessons	Final revision focus for lessons Unit 1 examination	End of term assessment – full mock examination – resit pupils potential to sit both	Full mock examination 3 timed writing assessments within lessons	Unit 1 examination (resit) Unit 2 examination

Subject	Year 10			Year 11		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Welsh Second Language New Specification Teaching from Sept 2017 – Current year 10.			Unit 1 Oral Examination 27-29 March 2019 All pupils in year 10 in set 1-5 will sit this examination. Group response to visual stimulus. Listening 15% Speaking 10% 25% Overall 50 Marks		Unit 2 Oral Examination 3 -5 April 2019 Group response to visual stimulus. Speaking 15% Listening 10% 25% Overall 50 Marks	Unit 3 Reading and Writing Examination 8 May 2019 Reading 15% Writing 10% 25% Overall 100 Marks Unit 4 Reading and Writing Examination 10 May 2019 Reading 10% Writing 15% 25% Overall 100 Marks
Skills Challenge Certificate (WBQ)	Global Citizenship Challenge (15%)	Enterprise and Employability Challenge (20%)	Enterprise and Employability Challenge (20%)	Individual project (50%)	Community Challenge (15%)	

Pupils listen well to the teacher's instructions and to contributions from their peers to class discussions.

ESTYN Inspection Report - 2014

Subject	Publication / Website
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Bitesize http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z3ydv4j/revision • BBC Bitesize http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z8ydv4j/revision • WJEC website – resources and past papers • University of Bristol - http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/index.htm • Google Scholar • Google Books • BBC Bitesize http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty • http://www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/english/ • http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/ - great for revising the writing part of the Unit 02 exam. Look at the grammar, spelling, punctuation and writing articles areas of the website. • http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/english.html - has good sections on writing to describe and writing to persuade, argue and advise. Don't worry about the other sections. • englishplus.com - site on English grammar; try the grammar slammer to help pupils gain full marks on the spelling/punctuation and sentence structure marking criteria.
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corbettmaths: https://corbettmaths.com • Mr Hegarty - www.youtube.com/hegartymaths or http://www.hegartymaths.com/ • BBC Bitesize - http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z6pfb9q • Mr Barton maths - http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/ • PiXL MathsApp
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangor University GCSE revision guides - https://www.bangor.ac.uk/ccm/gcserevision.php.en • GCSE Bitesize - http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv • WJEC past papers and mark schemes - http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/qualification-resources.html?subject=Science&level=GCSE&pastpaper=true • WJEC KS4 Science resources - http://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subid=27&lvlid=2

Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://sarahgraham.info/ • https://www.paul-cezanne.org/ • http://lichtensteinfoundation.org/ • http://www.theartstory.org/artist-warhol-andy.htm • http://joelpenkman.com/ • http://www.hollylevell.com/ • https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/138626494756767129/?lp=true
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Bitesize https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zpsvr82 • Tutor2u https://www.tutor2u.net/business/topics • BusinessEd https://www.businessed.co.uk/index.php/home/theory/gcse/edexcel-gcsetheory • BeeBusinessBee – You Tube - BTEC First Award in Business Playlist https://www.youtube.com/user/beebusinessbee/playlists
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zbckjxs • Book: ISBN 9781908682888 'WJEC/Eduqas GCSE DRAMA - Garry Nicholas
D&T Product Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils to access resources relevant to their specific course via the WJEC website listed below; • http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/design-and-technology/ • There are links to recommended websites and publications identified on these pages.
D&T Food & Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils to access resources via the WJEC website listed below; • http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/food-and-nutrition/ • There are links to recommended websites and publications identified on these pages.
D&T BTEC Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils to access resources via the Pearson's website listed below; • http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/engineering-2012-nqf.html • There are links to recommended websites and publications identified on these pages.
D&T Child Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils to access resources via the WJEC website listed below; • http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/home-economics/home-economics-child-development.html • There are links to recommended websites and publications identified on these pages.

Subject	Publication / Website
Geography	http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/ www.edmodo.com Revision Guide - My Revision Notes: WJEC GCSE Geography. ISBN 9781471887406
History	WJEC Website – specific resources and past papers Edmodo – past papers, revision activities and resources produced by the department My revision notes: WJEC GCSE History ISBN: 9781510403833
Religious Studies	<p>Books New Specification (Year 10 pupils) In house text book available on Edmodo / iBooks WJEC Religious Studies Unit 1 Religion and Philosophical themes –Hodder education (be aware this does not cover Hinduism)</p> <p>Books New Specification (Year 11 pupils) In house notes/ booklets also available on Edmodo WJEC Religious Studies Unit 2 Religion and Ethical themes- Hodder education (be aware this does not cover Hinduism)</p> <p>Teacher revision and lesson resources notes Available on Edmodo https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/z3xvfcw (Christianity and Hinduism)</p>
Physical Education	WJEC Website http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/physical-education/r-gcse-physical-education-from-2016/wjec-gcse-physical-education-spec-from-2016-e.pdf?language_id=1
Skills Challenge Certificate (WBQ)	WBQ bitesize http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/levels/z9wtgdm
Welsh	WJEC Website http://resources.wjec.co.uk (Select Welsh Second Language: KS4) Revision book: available to purchase from the welsh department Apps: Duolingo, Saysomething in Welsh, HWB, Apgeiriaduron (dictionary), www.clwb.org BBC bitesize: Welsh Second language GCSE

Subject	Publication / Website
MFL	<p>BBC http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize French/German/Spanish Excellent website provided by the BBC, organized by skill (eg Reading or Listening) and then by topic http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/topics/secondary.shtml - video clips of French/German/Spanish people speaking about different topics.</p> <p>Exam boards http://www.wjec.co.uk/index.php?subject=57&level=7&list=paper 2012-2014 French/German/Spanish Listening and Reading papers but no audio http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-4655/past-papers-and-mark-schemes AQA GCSE French/German/Spanish Past Papers with the audio (the topics are very similar to WJEC) 01- Listening 02 - Reading</p> <p>Other websites http://www.wildfrench.co.uk/GCSEpapers/paperslist.htm Edexcel French GCSE Past Papers (the topics are very similar to WJEC) http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/intermediate/year10.html French/German/Spanish GCSE revision practice available after 4pm for free http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/ French/German/Spanish : grammar, topics and vocabulary practice www.quizlet.com/subject/spanish - French/German/Spanish vocabulary revision - just type in the topic you need to revise for a variety of games http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum/modlang/ French/German/Spanish A Surrey secondary school's website with games and listening activities. Try the interactive quizzes. http://www.targetlanguage.co.uk/ French/German/Spanish GCSE practice with verbs, exam rubrics and topics, dictionary and information from the different exam boards is also available from the site. http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/haberg/index.htm French/German/Spanish GCSE practice by topics: crosswords, multiple choices ... http://www.aiglon.ch/langlink/frenchrev.html French revision site for grammar and topics http://www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/french/index.html French GCSE general revision site with revision advice http://www.atantot-extra.co.uk/ Basic vocabulary builder including many games in French http://www.tv5.org/index.php - Watch French TV</p>

Pupil Progress and Reporting

Year 10		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<p>Tuesday 13th November Personal Development Session 1</p> <p>Wednesday 21st November Interim Report issued</p>	<p>Tuesday 15th January Personal Development Session 2</p> <p>Thursday 31st January Parent's Evening</p> <p>Friday 15th March Interim Report issued</p> <p>GCSE Welsh Orals - Unit 1 27th to 29th March inclusive – dates cannot be altered</p>	<p>Friday 24th May issue full school report</p> <p>Tuesday 7th May 2019 External National GCSE examinations commence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ English Literature ✓ Science ✓ Sociology ✓ For a few students we may enter for English Language, maths and numeracy GCSE examinations. <p>Friday 14th June 2019 External National GCSE examinations finish</p>

Year 11		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<p>Thursday 11th October Parent's Evening</p> <p>Tuesday 6th November through to Wednesday 14th November inclusive External National GCSE examinations – maths & numeracy</p> <p>Tuesday 13th November Personal Development Session 1</p> <p>November 15th and 16th internal English Language mock examinations</p> <p>Other mock examinations commence Monday 26th November</p>	<p>Monday 7th January Science coursework commences through to Friday 8th February.</p> <p>Tuesday 15th January Personal Development Session 2</p> <p>Friday 18th January issue full school report</p> <p>Oral and practical examinations including Welsh orals Unit 2 – 3rd to 5th April inclusive dates cannot be altered</p>	<p>Tuesday 7th May 2019 External National GCSE examinations commence</p> <p>Friday 14th June 2019 External National GCSE examinations finish</p> <p>These dates are inclusive and are set nationally.</p>

Helping your child to cope with exam pressure and stress

Tests and exams can be a challenging part of school life for both children and parents but there are ways to ease the stress. Remind your child that feeling anxious is normal. Nervousness is a natural reaction to exams. The key is to put these nerves to positive use. Being reminded of what they do know and the hard work and time they have put into study can help them feel confident.

If your child is feeling stressed and anxious about exams, please speak to their teachers, form tutor or Wellbeing Leader. We have a team of staff who can help and support pupils through exam periods.

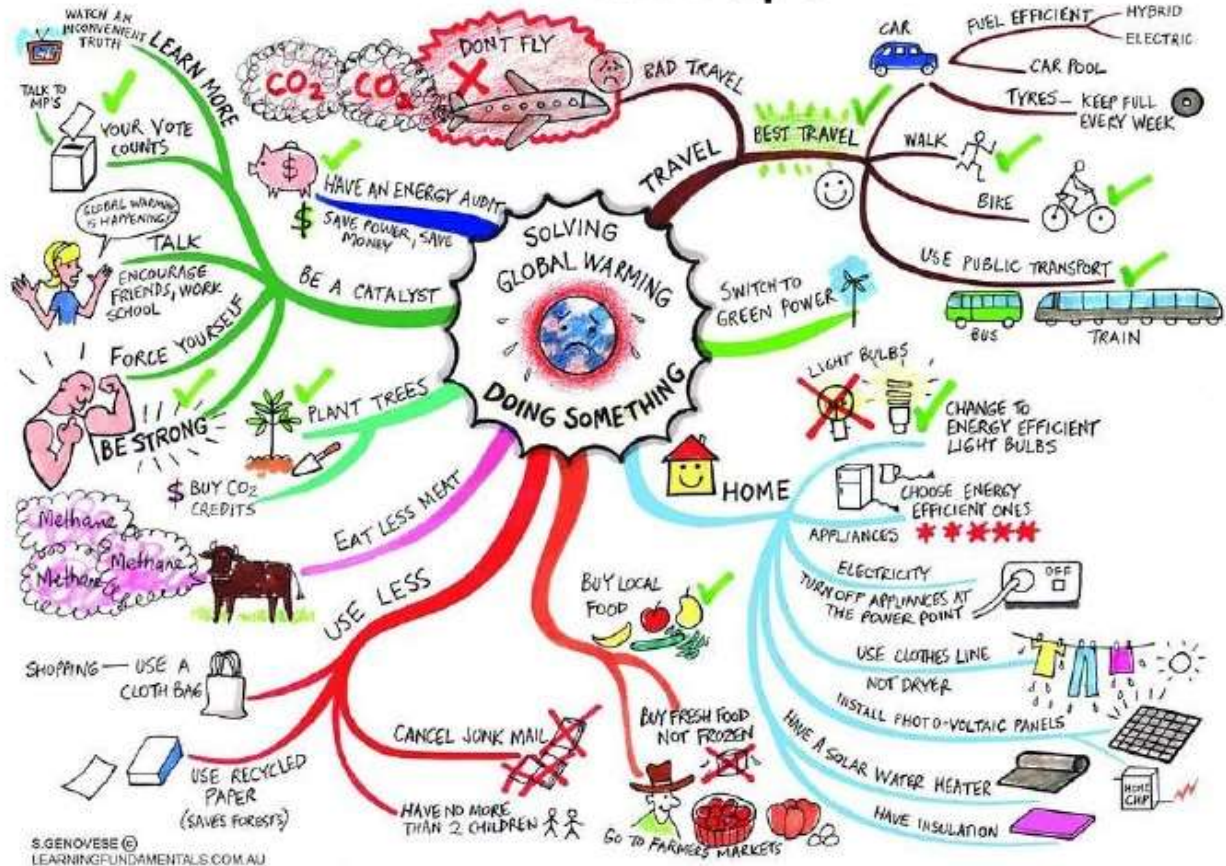
<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/Pages/Coping-with-exam-stress.aspx>

What you can do to support revision at home

How should revision be done?

Subject teachers will be able to provide ideas for effective revision techniques as these vary depending on the subject. Different strategies will work better for some pupils than others. Copying out long passages of text in a bid to memorise them can be time consuming and may work for some children but be no use to others. Practising exam style questions under timed conditions is recommended for all subjects and teachers can provide these. For languages important vocabulary could be written on flashcards and these could be used for quick fire quizzes. For mathematics it could be helpful to practise mental calculations such as multiplication tables or finding fractions and percentages of quantities by posing questions whilst in the car. Other ideas include creating small revision posters with key facts that can be put up around the house so that they are seen constantly e.g. next to the kettle or on the fridge door. Nowadays, it is easy to record yourself on your smartphone and listen back to yourself. Mindmaps are also very popular and work well with many pupils. These can be done on paper, but there are several apps available to be used with tablets and computers. If you are able to, it is often an incentive if new stationary is available to create revision materials.

MindMaps



How much revision should be done?

Whilst we run revision sessions in school, this is not sufficient revision time for pupils. All pupils need to carry out additional revision at home. We believe this is important as it further develops pupils' independent learning skills. We want them to be resourceful, knowing where to look for sources for support and identifying their own areas for improvement. It also provides an opportunity to hone time management skills.

Make sure your child understands the importance of starting revision early rather than leaving things until the last couple of weeks before exam season. Starting early will allow them to build their confidence gradually. The amount of time each pupil needs for revision will depend on them. Some subjects will require more time each week than others. Discuss with your child which subjects they feel least confident with and encourage them to spend more time on these. Some subjects require a little and often approach e.g. 45 minutes three times per week rather than a longer session once per fortnight. Consider at what time of day your child works best and try to work family life around this where possible. If they work best during the morning, can a family outing be delayed until the afternoon?

Implementing a revision timetable can be helpful in ensuring pupils manage their time well. Encourage them to plan this themselves each week building in other commitments such as school and any clubs, sporting activities or social events first. Fill in the gaps with short blocks of subject based revision dependent on what they feel is most necessary but make sure they are realistic and the timetable is achievable. It is important to build in time for breaks and treats. A template for a revision timetable is available overleaf:

Where should revision be done?

Revision can take place at school in our Resource area after school every day, at home, in a local library, at a friend's house, anywhere! It is helpful for pupils to have a designated work space at home for revision. Where possible, a desk and chair in a quiet, well-lit and ventilated area works best. Equipment and stationery can be kept in the same place. Some pupils will not like absolute silence and may prefer to have some background music on. Try to minimise distractions such as television, computer games and web browsing/social media. Build in time to enjoy these or other favoured activities once revision is completed. For some revision, access to a computer or another device may be necessary. Don't forget to provide snacks!

Over a three-year period, the extent of the improvement at key stage 4 is considerably greater than the average improvement in the family of schools, and in schools nationally, in every key performance indicator.

ESTYN Monitoring Report - 2016

Who should help with revision?

Teachers, parents, friends, tutors, siblings can all help with revision. Pupils may want you to test them on recall of facts or help them understand something they are finding challenging. They may also want to be left alone. Some pupils may want to revise with their friends in a study group. This will work well for some and not for others, it may be more suitable for some subjects than others. It is advisable to let them try it if they are keen and then afterwards encourage them to reflect on whether it was successful or whether, in that instance, independent revision would have been better. Revision, whilst necessary, does not have to be an unbearable task, and if it is possible to make it more enjoyable, take every opportunity.

Ensuring your child fulfils their potential

We have high expectations of all pupils; we expect them to perform to the best of their ability in both lessons and assessments.

Some subjects at our school enter the pupils for examination earlier in the school year. We do this for a number of reasons. If pupils have a good chance of achieving their target grade it can reduce the number of exams they have to revise for in the summer. It allows more able pupils to study for additional qualifications and for some pupils who find the subject more challenging it provides them with two chances to be successful so they do not have to resit in Y12.

This opportunity has been put in place to maximise opportunities for pupils not limit them. We want our pupils to be ambitious. If they achieve a grade early but we feel they have not achieved their potential, we will advise them to resit. This is due to the fact that places on sixth form course, university courses and in the job market are in greater demand and competition is higher. This allows these places to be more demanding in terms of the grades they want pupils to have. Many courses are raising the expectation for GCSE mathematics to be a grade B instead of the more traditional grade C. Another reason is that whilst pupils may have chosen a course now that only requires a grade C we do not want them to be disadvantaged if they change their minds at a later date and find they have to retake qualifications later.

The school provides a safe, caring and friendly environment.

ESTYN Inspection Report - 2014

Top Tips



DO agree to an appropriate work/life balance with your child so that they are not working so hard they become stressed or being complacent and not revising enough.

DO understand that there will be times throughout the year where they become demotivated and may get upset. Try to support them though this by being understanding and positive.

DO encourage your child to attend the revision sessions that are being held in school.

DON'T be tempted to nag them to revise. Try to get them to realise for themselves how important this is. Try to avoid incentives and bribes unless all else has failed!

DO try and help them if they are stuck. Encourage them to persevere and help them be resourceful by trying to find help in books or online. If this is not successful encourage them to move onto something else and ask a teacher when they are next in school. Follow this up and make sure the issue is resolved.

DO show an interest in the exams, ask how long each exam will last, if they have the equipment that they need and what they might be asked.

DON'T add to their stress levels before an exam. You might be just as nervous as them, but showing them you are will not be helpful.

DO talk about other things. If they have been working all day, when they sit down to relax it might be better to discuss something other than revision in order to allow them to switch off.

DO praise the effort they are making regardless of the progress that is being made.

DO encourage them to be reflective. Get them to consider which revision strategies are working best for them and which are not.

DON'T let them spend a long time making a revision timetable very attractive with different colours for different subjects at the expense of doing some actual revision!

DO contact school if you are worried about how your child is coping with the demands and pressures of Y11.

Further support:

<http://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/teenagers/school-learning/exam-stress/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/helping_with_exams/

<https://revisionapp.co.uk/gcse-revision-essential-guide-parents/>

http://www.youngminds.org.uk/for_parents/parents_guide

<http://www.mindmapping.com/>

Mathematics

Qualification information

Your child will take two mathematics qualifications. These are

GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy

The examination board is WJEC.

Each qualification has two examinations, one is taken without a calculator and a calculator is allowed for the other. For the two qualifications, pupils will take four examinations in total.

There is no coursework and no controlled assessment.

There are three tiers of entry. These grades available for each tier are shown below.

Higher	A*	A	B	C				
Intermediate			B	C	D	E		
Foundation					D	E	F	G

We may enter different qualifications at different tiers e.g. higher for mathematics, intermediate for mathematics-numeracy. Your child will know their tier of entry. Some pupils have already achieved a C or above in one or both of the mathematics qualifications and be aiming for a higher grade. Some may have chosen stick with the grade already achieved and to concentrate on other subjects.

Support we offer

As a department we are keen to provide as much support as we can to pupils. Staff provide after school revision sessions and a timetable detailing when these are available is earlier in this document.

Some of the maths department have twitter accounts, which can be followed at @KHSMrsCMaths @KHSMrsCTMaths, @KHSMrTMaths, which tweet general revision tips and occasional questions. In addition, we use the school's In Touch system to regularly send out information to parents. Please ensure that the school has a current valid email address so that we contact you in this way.

What you can do to help your child?

Helping your child take a positive approach to mathematics will be beneficial. In the UK many people lack confidence in this key subject but being negative and making statements such as "I don't like maths" or "I was never any good at maths" makes it difficult for children to understand why they need to learn the subject.

In addition to the general revision advice provided you can also encourage your child to:



- Spend time on their mathematics homework ensuring they complete and understand the tasks set.
- Seek support when necessary. If they are struggling in class or with homework they should ask their maths teacher for help. If homework is proving challenging they should see their teacher before it is due to be handed in, if possible.
- Come well equipped to their mathematics lessons and tests. They will need a pen, pencil, ruler, a pair of compasses, an angle measurer or protractor and a scientific calculator. We recommend the Casio Scientific calculators that are available to buy in school or most supermarkets as the screen allows the user to see the entire calculation entry, thus reducing the chance of errors.
- Pay attention to and act on the advice of their teacher's feedback. Feedback may be verbal or written. If they have missed work or not completed tasks this will be identified in their exercise books and should be completed as soon as possible. They should always try to correct any incorrect work and ensure they understand where they have gone wrong.

Sources of further support

Revision Guides

It is not essential to buy a revision guide but some pupils find them helpful. Hodder Education produce the only revision guide associated with the WJEC qualifications your child is sitting and these are available in shops or online. If you have mathematics revision guides already that you have purchased for older children these will still be useful but be wary that there are now different tiers and additional content on the GCSE so these should be used in conjunction with the revision list for the correct tier.



English Language GCSE

Exam Board: WJEC

There is only one tier of entry for English Language – everyone does the same exam.

Unit 1 Non Examination Assessment Oracy 20% 2 hours

Task 1 (10%) – Individual Presentation

- Research a theme and give a presentation to the class.
- The presentation should last between 5 – 7 minutes including questions.
- Themes:
 - Wales
 - Leisure
 - The World of Work
 - The World of Science/Technology
 - Citizenship

Task 2 (10%) – Responding and Interacting

- One group discussion based on the pre-published resources.
- The discussion should last for about 10 minutes per group

Both tasks will be recorded by your son / daughter's teacher.

Half of the marks available will be awarded for **spoken accuracy**.

Pupils have **one week** to prepare the presentation and **one week** to prepare for the discussion.

These will take place at different times over the course of the GCSE.

How you can help your child with oracy

- Make sure you know the dates for the two tasks.
- Help them to research and find additional resources on the set themes / topics.
- Listen to your son / daughter as they rehearse their presentation.
- Go through the suggested questions to help your son / daughter develop ideas on the themes.
- Look at BBC bitesize with them (Spoken Language section for Wales)
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z3ydv4j/revision>
 - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z8ydv4j/revision>
- Make sure that they can back up their opinions with evidence.

Unit 2 Exam 40% 2 hours Reading and Writing Description, Narration and Exposition**Section A (20%) – Reading (40 marks) (1 Hour)**

- Answer questions on different extracts.
- There will be at least three texts, could be up to five or six.
- This section will also include an editing task focusing on understanding short texts (2.5% of qualification total).

Section B (20%) – Writing (40 marks) (1 Hour)

- One writing task from a choice of two: description (describe a moment in time or a travelogue), narration (story) or exposition (discursive essay).
- This section will also include one proofreading task focusing on writing accurately (2.5% of qualification total).
- 20 marks for this section will be awarded for content (meaning, purpose, readers and structure) and 15 marks for writing accurately (language, grammar, punctuation and spelling).

Unit 3 Exam 40% 2 hours Reading and Writing Argumentation, Persuasion and Instruction**Section A (20%) Reading (1 Hour)**

- Answer questions on different extracts.
- There will be at least three texts, could be up to five or six

Section B (20%) Writing (1 Hour)

- Two writing tasks (Letter/article/speech/review etc.)
- No choice.
- Linked thematically to Section A.
- 10 + 10 for each task
- Half of the marks for this section will be awarded for content (meaning, purpose, readers and structure) and the other half for writing accurately (language, grammar, punctuation and spelling).

Accuracy**Half of the marks for the oracy and the writing sections are for accuracy.**

Pupils must be able to write in full sentences and spell words correctly.

They must be able to shape sentences for effect.

How can you support this?

- Proof reading activities
- Editing tasks
- Encourage your child to speak in full sentences.

Support we offer

As a department we are keen to provide as much support as we can to pupils. Staff provide after school revision sessions at lunchtime and after school closer to exam periods. These will be updated regularly and posted on the English office door and near form rooms.

We use the school's In Touch system to regularly send out information to parents. Please ensure that the school has a current valid email address so that we can contact you in this way.

Pupils say they can't revise for English ... they can!

Encourage your child to read. This does not have to be novels but could be articles about things in which they are interested:

- Newspapers
- Articles
- On-line articles

How can you help with revision?

Ask questions about their reading of newspaper and magazine articles:

- What does [this word] mean?
- What is the article about?
- Who is the audience and how do you know?
- What is the attitude of the writer to the topic and how do you know?
- Does the article show bias? How?
- What is the purpose of the article?

What does revision look like?

- Pupils might make revision 'how to videos' on specific question types (Explain Everything, Snitch)
- Record success criteria / writing layout on a mobile phone / tablet and play back when doing something else
- Peer tutoring work with a partner and teach them the success criteria for different question types.
- Complete practice papers / questions - electronic and paper form
- BBC Bitesize
- Completion of proof reading tasks
- Short burst tasks making use of commercially available materials CGP (Spelling, punctuation and grammar packs for GCSE) revision guides
- Examine modelled answers for D/C and A/A* grades
- Summarise success criteria for various reading questions
- Summarise formats for different types of writing

- Highlight key facts from articles
- Learn key words or phrases for responses
- Use spider diagrams or mind maps
- Make revision cards
- Use mnemonics to remember information

Science GCSE

Qualification information

There are two main pathways that student can follow in studying GCSE Science

Triple Science

If your child is sitting triple science, they will sit three examination courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each course has three elements of assessment.

Assessment	% of overall examination	Year in which assessment takes place
Unit 1 Exam	45%	Year 10 (June)
Unit 2 Exam	45%	Year 11 (June)
Unit 3 (Practical exam)	10%	Year 11 (January)

- The examination board is WJEC.
- Calculators are allowed in all examinations.
- For each series:
 - weighting for the assessment of practical skills will be a minimum of 15%.
 - Weighting for the assessment of mathematical skills will be a minimum of 20%
- There are two tiers of entry. These grades available for each tier are shown below.

Higher	A*	A	B	C				
Foundation					D	E	F	G

Double science

If your child is sitting Double Award Science they will attain two GCSEs at the end of Year 11 through a mixture of Chemistry, Biology and Physics assessment

Assessment	% of overall examination	Year in which assessment takes place
Unit 1 Biology	15%	Year 10 (June)
Unit 2 Chemistry	15%	Year 10 (June)
Unit 3 Physics	15%	Year 10 (June)
Unit 4 Biology	15%	Year 11 (June)

Unit 5 Chemistry	15%	Year 11 (June)
Unit 6 Physics	15%	Year 11 (June)
Unit 7 Practical exam	10%	Year 11 (January)

- The examination board is WJEC.
- Calculators are allowed in all examinations.

Higher	A*	A	B	C	D			
Foundation				C	D	E	F	G

Support we offer

As a science faculty we offer a range of lunchtime and after school sessions which help pupils improve their knowledge, understanding and exam technique. We provide digital materials for home learning which include revision material, past paper questions and model answers. These are given in bite size chunks to pupils prior to internal tests so that pupils can prepare thoroughly for internal tests. Mr Hebert-Jones runs extra tutorial sessions for pupils identified in needing further help and support during registration.

What you can do to help your child?

- Provide a structure and routine for your child to enable their independent learning. Pupils must produce revision notes throughout the year, which should be short summaries of key words and key concepts. These could be done weekly at a regular time.
- Science homework are usually past paper questions requiring concise responses. Often pupils need help in summarising their answers and including all key words.
- Provide written feedback in your child's books of concerns regarding their learning and understanding.
- Ensure that your child is well equipped for the lesson. Most science lessons require access to a calculator, 30cm ruler, pen, pencil and glue.
- Read the feedback provided by the classroom teacher. This will provide information for targeted support.
- Check that your child has copied up any missing work as a result of absences
- Practice past paper questions. These are available on the WJEC website as are the answers. Those student who regularly do this soon realise they are a only finite number of questions that can be asked and this produces confidence and improvements in exam technique.
- Mathematics and interpretations of patterns in graphs form a large proportion of the marks available in the exams. Focused practice and support here could gain valuable marks.

Key Contacts

We welcome contact from parents when you have any questions or issues you need to discuss. For subject specific matters we ask that you contact your child's teacher through your child in the first instance, where possible, before contacting the KS4 Leaders.

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