

# Year 11 Parents Exam Support and Information

# Introductions

## **Welcome and thank you for coming**

- Mr. Newman – Deputy Headteacher
- Miss. McGoldrick – Assistant Headteacher
- Mr. Swingler- Assistant Headteacher
- Mr. Henderson – Head of Year 11
- Mrs. Smith – Assistant Head of Year 11

## **Purpose of our presentation**

- To provide key information and dates about the final GCSE exams
- To provide key information about the support we are offering at school
- To offer ways in which you can support at home
- Post-16 information



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THINK BIG DO THE RIGHT THING TEAM SPIRIT

# What is currently on offer

- PD – core subject support, focused on topic areas
- Saturday Schools
- Tutoring
- Revision guides have been provided in all areas – see us if you need them
- Revision websites/Apps – **PLEASE SEE MRS. SMITH IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR LOGIN DETAILS**
- Sixth form subject specific mentoring
- Core PE groups
- Smaller English and Maths groups
- Masterclasses in core subjects
- Coursework improvement sessions
- Meetings with each student individually
  - **Talk to us – what more do you want or need?**



# Online Revision Tools

- ‘Pixl’ apps for English Literature, Maths, History and Geography
  - School ID: **NB3440**
  - User ID: surname and first initial – e.g. BLOGGSJ
  - Password: **Password123**
  - The PiXL Literature App - <https://englishapp.pixl.org.uk>
  - The PiXL Maths App - <https://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk>
  - The PiXL Times Tables App - <https://timestable.pixl.org.uk>
  - The PiXL Geography App - <https://geographyapp.pixl.org.uk>
  - The PiXL History App - <https://historyapp.pixl.org.uk>
- GCSE POD (<https://www.gcsepod.com/>) – all students have logins – see Miss. McGoldrick if lost
- SPARX Maths
- Tassomai - Science

# Key Dates

- Tuesday 7th May - First written exam – Health and Social Care
- Friday 10th May - First core subject paper - Biology
- Monday 13th May – English Literature paper 1
- Thursday 16th May – Maths paper 1 – Non-Calculator
- Friday 24th May – Year 11 study day – **students not required in school**
- Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May – half term: revision sessions in school Tuesday - Friday: letter home w/b 20th May
- Monday 3rd return to school – Maths paper 2 - calculator
- Monday 17th June – Last WHOLE year group exam
- Thursday 20th June – final GCSE written exam



# Contingency Days

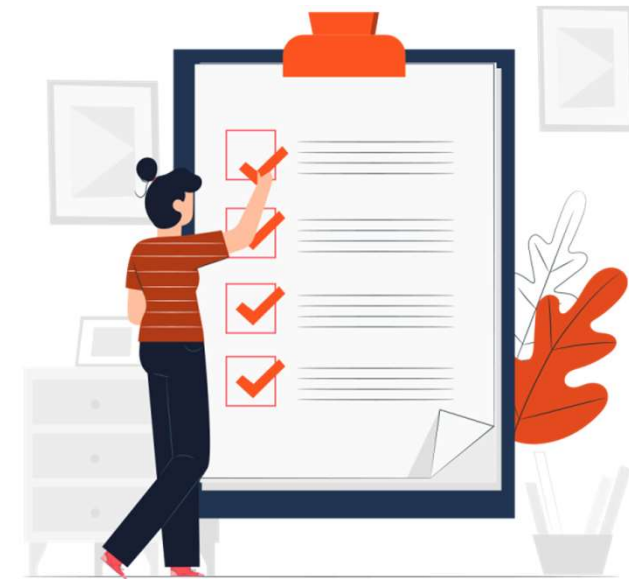
Afternoon of Thursday 6th June and Thursday 13th June and all day  
Wednesday 26th June Contingency Days

**All students must be available on these days**



# Key Information for the summer exams

- In GCSE maths, physics and combined science exams, students will be given formulae and equation sheets to support
- Individual exam timetables have been given out. Please check to confirm start times and for any errors. Ask us if there are any questions
- GCSE results Thursday 22nd August -between 9 & 10:30am
- The full summer exam timetable has been shared on the website. It will also be shared weekly on social media.





# Basic Equipment Requirements

- Black pens
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Compass
- Scientific calculator
- Highlighters
- Clear pencil case
- Clear water bottle



# Exam Rules and Procedures

- Exam conditions start **as soon as you enter the exam room** and do not end until you have **left the exam room**
- Exam conditions mean **no communication with any other candidate in the exam room**
- No talking, attempting to talk to or disturb other candidates
- Penalties for doing so can range from being reported to the exam board to **potential disqualification from all exams with that board**
- Candidates must **not open the question paper until authorised** to do so by the invigilators
- Sit in your designated seat
- Check that you have been given the correct paper – inform the invigilator if you think it is incorrect
- Read the instructions on the front of the paper

# Exam Rules and Procedures

## The following items are NOT allowed in the exam room

- AirPods, headphones or earbuds
- iPods and tablets
- Mobile phones
- MP3/4 players or similar devices
- Watches – including analogue
- Pencil cases **MUST be CLEAR**
- No paper or notes
- **CLEAR** drinking bottle with **WATER ONLY** – no labels

# Exam Rules and Procedures

## **If you are going to be late:**

- Inform the school as early as possible
- You will not be allowed to start an exam after 10:00 for a morning exam and 14:30 for an afternoon exam
- It is at our discretion whether we allow students to sit the exam if they are late and where they will sit it –i.e. we will not want to disturb the exam room if the exam has started

## **If students are ill on the day:**

- Inform the school as early as possible
- If there is genuine illness, we can apply for special consideration

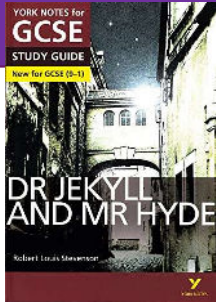
# Exam Preparation/Dropdown Timetable

- Ensures students are fully prepared and focussed on their upcoming exam.
- Changes day by day depending on exams
- Morning exams
  - Dropdown preparation session the afternoon before until 4-5pm
  - Dropdown preparation session the morning of the exam 7:30-8:40am
- Afternoon exams
  - Dropdown preparation session the morning of the exam in normal school time (time varies)

This plan will be shared weekly with students and constant reminders will be given via ClassCharts



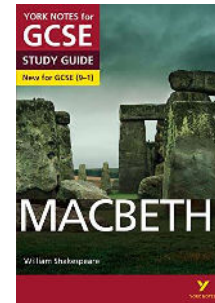
## NBA – English literature



**Key dates:**  
English literature paper 1 – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May  
literature paper 2 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May

**AQA English literature paper 1: 19<sup>th</sup> century novel and Shakespeare – 1 hour 45 minutes**

- Students will answer **one essay question** on Shakespeare.
- Be required to write about the extract given and the wider play.
- Students will answer **one essay question** on Jekyll and Hyde.
- Be required to write about the extract given and the wider novella.

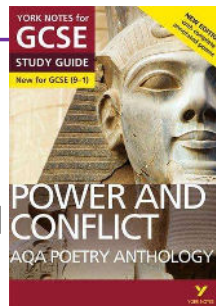


**AQA English literature paper 2: Modern texts and poetry – 2 hours 15 minutes**

- Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two based on their study of An Inspector Calls.
- Comparative question on poetry from the power and conflict anthology.
- Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

**Tips to success:**

- Thorough understanding of the text.
- Utilise revision guides and revision material
- Ability to recall key quotations
- Work productively in timed conditions
- Essay writing structure



# NBA – English Language

## Key dates:

English language paper 1 – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
literature paper 2 – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June

## English language paper 1: Exploration of creative reading and writing 50% of GCSE

### Students will explore;

- 1 source – fiction
- A total of 5 questions which increase in skills, difficulty and marks
- An opportunity to write a narrative or description based on a stimulus

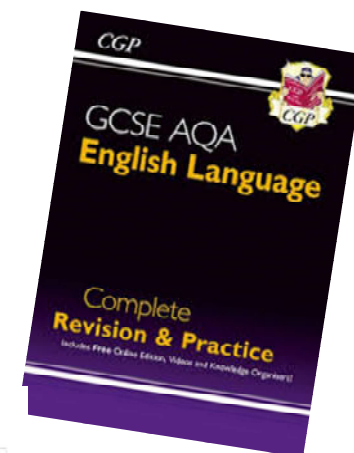
## English language paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives 50% of GCSE

### Students will explore;

- Two sources – non fiction
- Summarising
- Comparison of viewpoints
- A total of 5 questions with the requirement to write an article, speech or letter.

### Tips to success:

- Revise the requirements for each question
- Practise in timed conditions
- Exposure to a wide range of fiction and descriptive writing images
- Building on widely used vocabulary



**AQA**

Fill in with duty to do before  
Centre number:              
Candidate number:              
Surname:   
Forename(s):   
Candidate signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**  
Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing  
Wednesday 2 November 2017 Morning Time allowed 1 hour 45 minutes

Question	Marks
1	5
2	5
3	5
4	5
5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>

**Materials**  
The following materials are provided:  
• Source A – included in a separate pack

**Instructions**  
• Answer all questions.  
• Use dark ink or black ballpoint pen.  
• Fill in all boxes on the page.  
• You must write the candidate number in the space provided.  
• The markable area on the left of the page is for use only by the invigilator.  
• You will receive your materials. Check through and sign your name on the back of the materials.  
• You must refer to the insert booklet provided.  
• You must use a dictionary.

**Information**  
• The marks for questions are shown in brackets.  
• The maximum mark for the paper is 25.  
• There are 10 questions for Section A and 10 marks for Section B.  
• You are required to answer question 1 in Section A and question 1 in Section B.  
• You are required to answer question 2 in Section A and question 2 in Section B.  
• You are required to answer question 3 in Section A and question 3 in Section B.  
• You are required to answer question 4 in Section A and question 4 in Section B.  
• You are required to answer question 5 in Section A and question 5 in Section B.

**Advice**  
• You are advised to spend about 10 minutes reading the source.  
• You are advised to spend about 10 minutes writing your answer.  
• You are advised to spend about 10 minutes checking your answers.



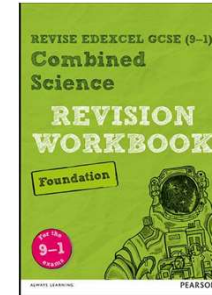
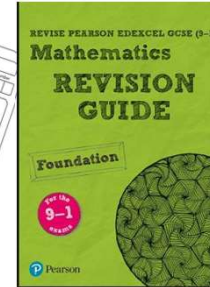
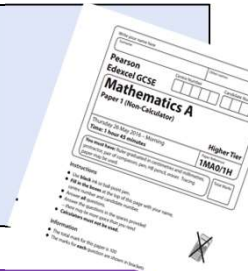
# NBA – Mathematics

## Mathematics key dates:

**Paper 1 (non-calculator): Thursday 16th May**

**Paper 2 (calculator): Monday 3rd June**

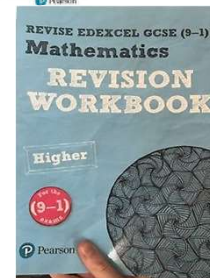
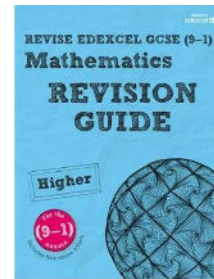
**Paper 3 (calculator): Monday 10th June**



### Tips to success:

- <https://www.sparxmaths.uk/> (homework)
- <http://www.mathsgenie.co.uk> (exam revision)
- <https://www.1stclassmaths.com/> (exam revision)

- The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 80 marks.
- The content outlined for each tier will be assessed across all three papers.
- Each paper has a range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.
- Foundation tier: grades 1 to 5.
- Higher tier: grades 4 to 9



Tier	Topic area	Weighting
Foundation	Number	22 - 28%
	Algebra	17 - 23%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	22 - 28%
	Geometry and Measures	12 - 18%
	Statistics & Probability	12 - 18%
Higher	Number	12 - 18%
	Algebra	27 - 33%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	17 - 23%
	Geometry and Measures	17 - 23%
	Statistics & Probability	12 - 18%

## Statistics key dates:

**Paper 1: Wednesday 5th June**

**Paper 2: Monday 17th June**

Statistics key dates:  
**Paper 1: Wednesday 5th June**  
**Paper 2: Monday 17th June**



## NBA – Science

### Science key dates:

Friday 10th May- Biology Paper 1  
Friday 17th May- Chemistry Paper 1  
Wednesday 22nd May- Physics Paper 1  
Friday 7th June- Biology Paper 2  
Tuesday 11th June- Chemistry Paper 2  
Friday 14th June- Physics Paper 2

### GCSE Combined Sciences- Trilogy.

Two GCSE grades.

Higher Tier. Grades 4-9

Foundation Tier. Grades 1-5

### Separate Science- 3 x GCSEs

Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Higher Tier. Grades 4-9

Foundation Tier. Grades 1-5

### Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

Paper 1. 1-4

Paper 2. 5-7

### Chemistry

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes
13. The rate and extent of chemical change
14. Organic chemistry
15. Chemical analysis
16. Chemistry of the atmosphere
17. Using resources

Paper 1. 8-12

Paper 2. 13-17

### Physics

- 18. Energy
- 19. Electricity
- 20. Particle model of matter
- 21. Atomic structure
- 22. Forces
- 23. Waves
- 24. Magnetism and electromagnetism

Paper 1. 18-21

Paper 2. 22-24



# 9-1 Grades Explained

- 9 is the highest grade that can be achieved
- 4 is a pass grade
- 5 is a strong pass grade
- All level 2 courses need 4s in English and Maths
- Most level 3 courses want grade 4s in 5 subjects, including English and Maths
- Most A Levels will require minimum grade 5 (ideally 6) in that subject

Old GCSE Grades	New GCSE Grades
	9
A*	8
A	7
Middle-High B	6
Low B/High C	5
C	4
D	3
E	2
F	1
U	U



# Preparation for Exams – It's not too late!

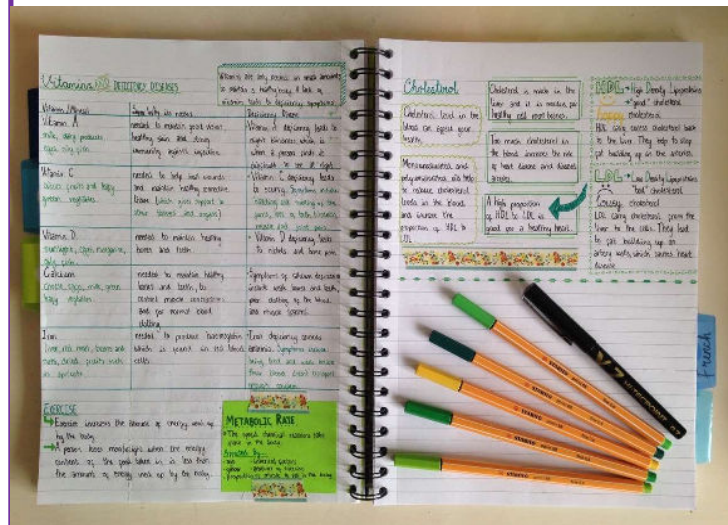
- The best preparation starts with commitment in lessons
- Revision should have started outside of school – ideally 2 hours per day and 6-8 over a weekend (18-20 hours per week)
- Get into good habits now
- 24 hours in one day
  - 7 hours at school
  - 8-9 hours sleep
  - 2 hours revision
  - 6-7 hours per day for them – which is vitally important
- Look out for signs of tiredness and stress – you know your children and what's best for them



# What does good revision look like?

## Approaches

- Not necessarily lots of writing
- Having discussions - get them to teach you
- Quizzes in the car or on a walk or whilst eating
- Use of apps and other online tools
- YouTube videos
- Reading – including past papers to get used to them
- Application of knowledge – practise past papers



## Top Tips

- Start early
- Plan your revision using a timetable- 20–45-minute sessions maximum
- Set aside time to do other things
- Choose a suitable place to revise
- Vary your techniques
- Keep your phone, TV and other distractions away
- Sleep and eat properly

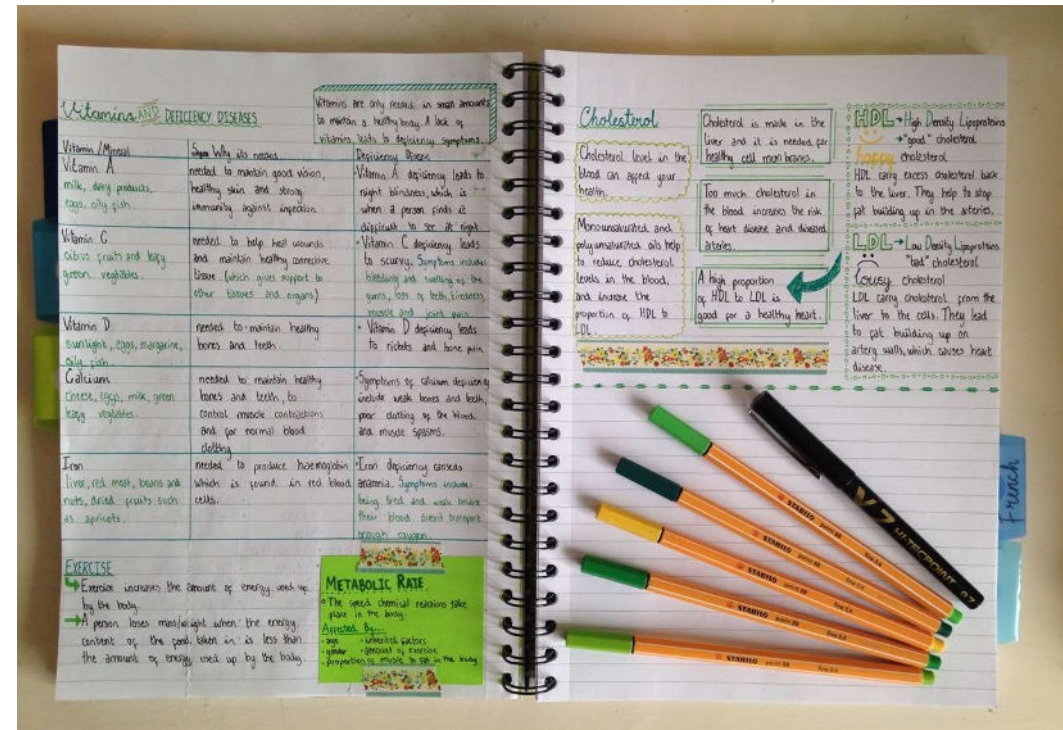
# What does good revision look like - example?

Day	7-8	8:40-3:15	Lunchtimes	Period 6	Evenings
Monday	History GCSE Pod	Lessons	Keep free	Invited option	6 lots of 20 minutes
Tuesday	English GCSE Pod Exercise 20 minutes	Lessons	History revision	Maths	6 lots of 20 minutes
Wednesday	Maths GCSE Pod Read for pleasure 20 minutes	Lessons	Art	Science	6 lots of 20 minutes
Thursday	PE GCSE Pod X-Box 20 minutes	Lessons	Art	English	6 lots of 20 minutes
Friday	Exercise 20 minutes	Lessons	Keep free	Free	Free
Saturday	Sleep	8 lots of 20 minutes	Keep free	Free	Free
Sunday	Sleep	6 lots of 20 minutes	Keep free	Free	4 lots of 20 minutes



# Revision Techniques

- Practice papers and mark schemes
- Mnemonics & Acronyms
- Chunking
- Flashcards
- Mind-maps
- Post-it notes
- Peer revision



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z6pv3k7#z3gwqfr>

# Past Papers & Mark Schemes

- Great for applying content/knowledge
- Available in classrooms and online
- Ask your teacher
- Ensuring success document



## Different ways to utilise:

- Try chunks of questions then mark your answers using the mark scheme
- Use the mark scheme to write model answers
- Mark each other's answers

# Mnemonics & Acronyms

- Great for recalling knowledge
- Your teacher may have already given you some
- Create your own/ create with your friends
- Something that means something to you where possible

## Mnemonic

1- MY  
2- VERY  
3- EASY  
4- METHOD  
5- JUST  
6- SUMS  
7- UP  
8- NINE  
9- PLANETS

M  
V  
E  
M  
J  
S  
U  
N  
P

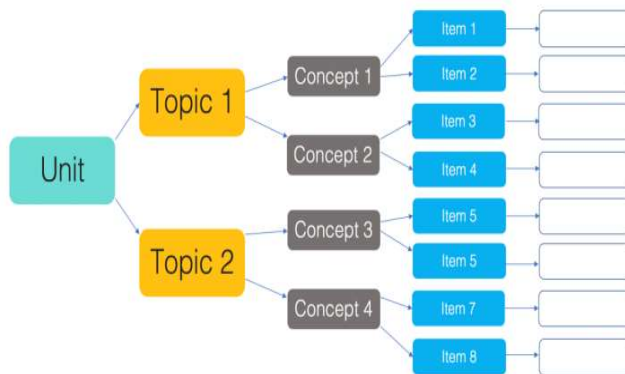
## Planets

MERCUREY  
VENUS  
EARTH  
MARS  
JUPITER  
SATURN  
URANUS  
NEPTUNE  
PLUTO (DWARF PLANET)

# Chunking

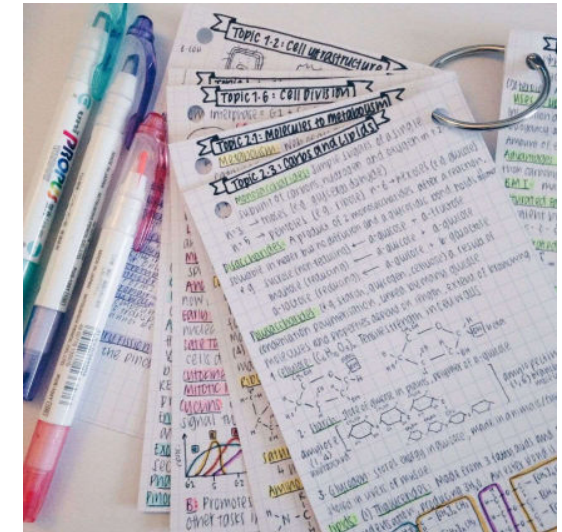
- Is breaking down large amounts of information into smaller, more manageable, parts.
- By grouping several items into one larger whole, you'll be able to remember much more

An example of Chunking



# Flashcards, Mind Maps & Post-it Notes

- Great for content revision
- Visually effective
- Clear and concise- key points
- Different colours/highlighters
- Small drawings





# Friends & Family

- **Revise with friends & family**
- **Test each other- low stakes- quizzing**
- **Give each other feedback**



THINK BIG

DO THE RIGHT THING

TEAM SPIRIT



- We offer a wide range of A levels and Vocational courses
- Quality work experience in line with your chosen pathway in Year 12
- Enrichment opportunities, trips and access to high quality careers advice
- Exclusive use of 6th Form centre and study areas for group and individual study
  - 100% of students who apply gain access to University study.
  - Student Leadership Opportunities

# NBA Sixth Form Achievements

- Students have received offers to study medicine or dentistry
- Students have gone on to study at both Oxford and Cambridge university
- Students have secured high quality apprenticeships

Previous destinations to Apprenticeships and Universities



# Our curriculum offer

Choose  
**3 A levels**

Or

**2 Vocational Subjects**

Or

**1 Vocational & 1 A level**

A level	Vocational
Biology	Business Studies
Chemistry	Health and Social Care
Computer Science	IT
English Literature	Performing Arts
Further Mathematics	Sports
History	
Mathematics	
Physics	
Photography	
Psychology	
RE	
Sociology	

\*Courses subject to class size

**Entry Requirements:**

**Academic Route**  
5 GCSEs – 5 or above

**Vocational Route**  
5 GCSEs – 4 or above



## Sixth Form

WELCOME TO THE SIXTH FORM

SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

ACADEMY PERFORMANCE TABLES

WHERE OUR STUDENTS GO

HOW TO APPLY



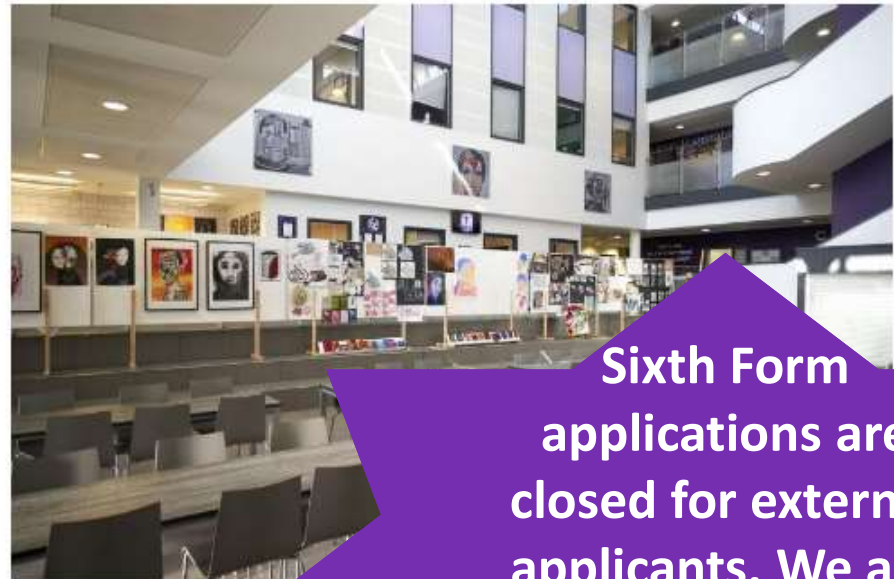
VISITING THE SIXTH FORM

BURSARIES

16-19 TUITION FUND

OPEN EVENING

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



**Sixth Form applications are closed for external applicants. We are still accepting NBA student applications.**

## Top 10 Tips to help your child this year

How can you help your child and prepare them to perform?

1. Being a role model
2. Help them set goals
3. Keep them active
4. Healthy eating
5. Time out
6. Sleep patterns
7. Unplugging
8. Staying cool & calm
9. Belief
10. Be supportive

Each day you can support your child to make choices which can impact how they perform during the exam period



# 1. Being a role model

**Set a good example by modelling the behaviour you want your child to adopt...**

- Planning for the week
- Eating healthily and well
- Keeping hydrated
- Leading an active life
- Staying calm
- Being organised
- Good sleep habits



## 2. Goal Setting

- **Encourage** them to keep their goals visible – e.g. printed and displayed on their bedroom wall
- **Help focus** them and talk to them about their goals regularly
- Give **positive reinforcement**
- **Connect** with them about ‘**why**’ and ‘**what**’ they want to achieve





## 3. Keeping Active

- Encourage them to keep active
- Carry out exercise in manageable chunks e.g. 3 x 10 min sessions throughout the day
- Plan to do active things together at the weekend
- Go out for a walk together and get some fresh air
- Help them plan out their weekly exercise schedule in advance
- After exercise your brain functions well, so encourage a revision session afterwards

20-30  
minutes  
per day



## 4. Healthy Eating

- Plan meals for the week – breakfast, snacks, lunches and evening meals
- Avoid high sugary and fatty foods or drinks
- Aim to eat clean, fresh and healthy foods
- Have a couple or 'treat' meals
- **The Bootstrap Chef, Joe Wicks – cheap and healthy meal plans**
- Encourage them to come and eat breakfast at school every day
- Hydration is key to brain functioning so make sure your child carries a bottle of water with them



## 5. Time Out

Encourage them to build in opportunities to take some time out every week, away from study. For example:

- Going out for food
- Seeing friends
- Having a bath
- Listening to music
- Reading a book
- Doing a hobby
- Going shopping
- Going to the cinema



**TAKING TIME OUT**

IS AS IMPORTANT AS PUTTING TIME IN



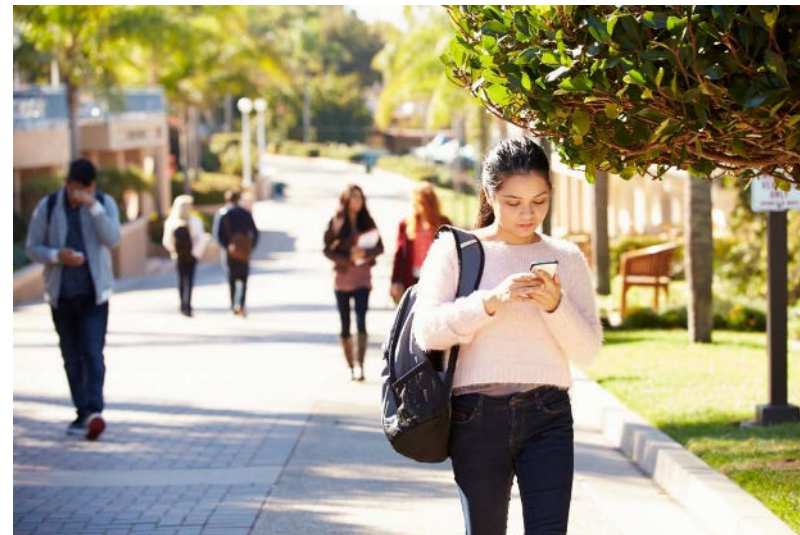
## 6. Sleep Patterns

- Young people need between 8 – 9 hours sleep per night
- Help your child create a relaxing evening routine
- Make sure they don't eat too late at night
- Avoid giving them caffeine or sugary drinks late at night
- Make sure they don't work or revise too late before going to bed
- Encourage them to switch off from social media / technology at least an hour before bedtime



## 7. Unplugging

- ✓ Encourage them to unplug from technology everyday
- ✓ Help them switch off from technology at least 30 mins- 1 hr before going to sleep
- ✓ Support your child to appreciate the world around them rather than being governed by their phone
- ✓ Make sure they put their phone away, & on silent, while they are concentrating on tasks / revision / homework
- ✓ Help them learn to have the control to not be obsessed with their phone
- ✓ Choose some time each day/week to switch off and unplug from technology with them





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## 8. Staying Cool & Calm

- Set a good example by staying calm yourself
- Create a relaxing environment for your child
- Help them plan out coping strategies to deal with their stress
- Give them positive distractions away from studying
- Help them understand their stress & to focus on controlling the controllables
- Promote a balance of their academic studies & other activities during the week



THINK BIG

DO THE RIGHT THING

TEAM SPIRIT

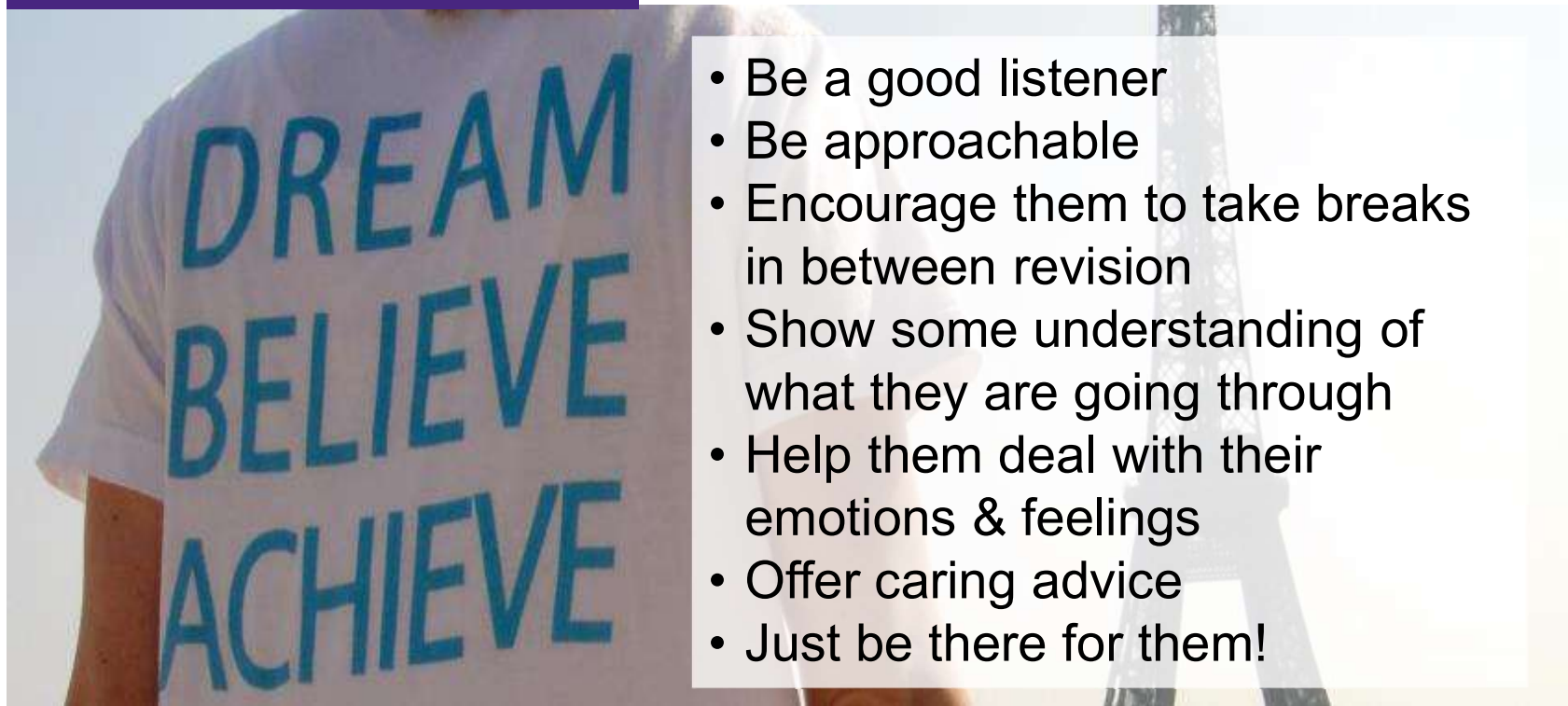
## 9. Belief

- Give them positive reinforcement
- Boost their confidence daily
- Celebrate any successes and reward them e.g. if they have achieved their mini-goals
- Try not to set your expectations too high
- Show them how proud of them you are
- Highlight things to make them feel good
- Give them the belief in themselves to help them achieve

**BELIEVE  
YOU CAN  
& YOU'RE  
HALFWAY  
THERE.**



## 10. Be Supportive



- Be a good listener
- Be approachable
- Encourage them to take breaks in between revision
- Show some understanding of what they are going through
- Help them deal with their emotions & feelings
- Offer caring advice
- Just be there for them!





## Venue

Birmingham botanical gardens

Thursday 27th June - 7.15pm

DETAILS THAT ARE IMPORTANT  
22ND MARCH UNTIL 28TH MAY 2024

- Cost of the evening is £45 includes food, mocktail on arrival, DJ & Entertainment
- Payment to be made on Parent Pay in full
- Incentives that can earn you refund are...
- Attendance above 98% with excellent punctuality
- Prom passport to be stamped - 28 extra sessions, Easter school, period 6 - DO NOT LOSE IT!
- Free Professional photograph on the evening if you achieve both incentives
- 10-hour challenge - 90% above completion rate - Draw for a free ticket



# Final thoughts?

- What they do from now will help shape what happens in the next 5 years
- We all want to give them the best opportunity so that **they** can decide what to do in the next 5 years, not someone else
- Points of contact – subject issues to the teacher first and then the Head of Department. Any other issues Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Newman, Miss. McGoldrick or Mr. Swingler
- Everything from tonight will be shared on the school's website
- Thank you for your support and don't hesitate to contact us if there is anything you need

