



**WELCOME TO THE
YEAR 10 PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING
JANUARY 2016**

Purpose of this evening



- To provide an overview of the GCSE process.
- Share some tips for success across the GCSE years.
- Inform you about the changes in Maths and English.
- Highlight some key dates and contact information.

The GCSE process



Two methods of assessment



Exam(s) at the end
of the course – May
or June 2017



Controlled
assessment or
coursework – at key
points.

The GCSE process



- Some subjects have more controlled assessment than others.
- Some have no controlled assessment or coursework at all.
- Where present, controlled assessment represents a decent opportunity to be successful.

Changes to the exam system



- A*-C grades are being gradually replaced by a new system that uses the numbers 1-9.
- This applies only to English and Maths for current year 10 pupils.
- Overall grade entirely dependent on exams.
- More content to be covered than previously.

Changes to the exam system



- Broadly the same proportion of students will gain a 4 and above as currently gain a C and above.
- Grade 5 will be considered a “good pass”, equivalent to a current low B or high C.
- Only the top 1/3rd currently obtaining a C grade will be awarded a new grade 5.
- 2/3rd of pupils currently obtaining a C grade will be awarded a new grade 4 which is not deemed to be a “good pass”.

The main change to the exam system



Achieving a 'good pass' is going to be harder than before.

New GCSE grading structure

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	A
7	A
6	B
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

How can you help at home?



- Try to ensure that his attendance is as high as possible.
- 90% in an exam is a great result. It's not a great attendance statistic.
- Routines are really important to ensure key equipment and books are in school on the right days.
- Correct uniform and punctuality count for a lot and set a tone.

How can you help at home?



- Spending time at home consolidating and extending work done at school is more important than ever in the new system.
- Help to agree upon a routine that enables your son to balance his independent study with the other things that he enjoys doing. An agreed schedule might help to prevent arguments!
- Provide a space that is comfortable to work in and negotiate an approach together.
- Little and often is best for most.

How can you help at home?



- Talk to your son about the topics he is doing at school in his different subjects.
- Does he understand what success looks like or is he just focusing on completing a task?
- Get in touch if you have any concerns – usually the sooner the better.
- Encourage your son to keep going – studying for GCSEs is tough at times.

GCSE Mathematics



- More demanding for everyone
- Increased subject content
- Total time for the examinations is increasing
- Greater emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning
- Fewer formulae provided in the examinations

GCSE Mathematics



- Students will sit 3 exams
- All examinations are $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
- Exams will be at the end of the course.
- There is no controlled assessment or coursework element.

GCSE Mathematics



- The only formulae provided in the exam will be
 - Curved surface of a cone
 - Volume of a cone
 - Surface area of a sphere
 - Volume of a sphere
- These will be provided in the relevant question – not separately.
- Students will have to remember all other formulae

Topics new to Foundation Tier



- Standard form
- Factorising quadratics
- Linear simultaneous equations
- Trigonometry
- Compound interest
- Reverse percentages
- Circle properties
- Vectors
- Direct and inverse proportion

Topics new to Higher Tier



- Expanding binomials
- Gradient at a point on a curve as rate of change
- Areas under graphs
- Finding approximate solutions using iteration
- Solving quadratic inequalities
- Inverse and composite functions

Considerations



- Encourage students to learn formulae.
- Foundation tier now including material at old grade B standard.
- Encourage students to practise, practise, practise!
- Resources like mathswatch to support learning in class
 - Access details on VLE.

GCSE Maths



Foundation (grades 1-5)	Paper 1 Non-calculator 33.3% weighting 80 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes 	Paper 2 Calculator 33.3% weighting 80 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes 	Paper 3 Calculator 33.3% weighting 80 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes
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English GCSE



- The vast majority of pupils are studying GCSEs in both English Language and English Literature.
- The new 9-1 GCSE makes higher demands regarding spelling, punctuation and grammar so encourage proof reading of writing and drafting/re-drafting.

English GCSE – some tips



- Encourage reading - fiction and non-fiction. If your son regularly reads a quality newspaper it will be enormously useful.
- The school library is now an amazing resource with a huge range of contemporary books that your son can borrow.
- Encourage a 'critical mind' in your son - talk to him about films, books, tv shows to develop the ability to evaluate, articulate, explain and justify opinions.

English GCSE – some tips



- Try to introduce your son to the classics: Shakespeare / Dickens especially - the new GCSE makes 19th Century Lit compulsory.
- Audio books are a great way to engage with challenging texts.....many are free on youtube.
- Proof read your son's work in any of his subjects.
- Use websites like sparknotes.com which provide chapter summaries, character and plot notes etc.

Key dates and contacts



Parents' Evenings

Allen, Burgess, Burnett and Ford
Wednesday 2nd March

Lambdin, Ottrey, Warwick and Woodland
Thursday 10th March

Tutors and House Leaders



House	Tutor	House Leader
Allen	Mr Miah	Mr Baggett nbaggett@twbs.co.uk
Burgess	Miss Kelly	Mr Usher iusher@twbs.co.uk
Burnett	Mr Parry	Mr Woods dwoods@twbs.co.uk
Ford	Miss Hague	Mr Jeffery rjeffery@twbs.co.k
Lambdin	Mr Kilkelly	Mr Le Paih slepaih@twbs.co.uk
Ottrey	Miss Lansley	Mr Paul apaul@twbs.co.uk
Warwick	Mr Fatania	Mr Gregory rgregory@twbs.co.uk
Woodland	Miss Hare	Mr Fousset bfousset@twbs.co.uk

Finally...



Thank you.