

Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening

Thursday 17th September 2026





GCSE Results Day
Thursday 19th August 2027

Advice from our students on results day

Do revision early and have a plan. Try to focus on your weaker subjects and speak to your teachers about how to revise if you are struggling. Keep going and challenge yourself

Set your own targets; don't be limited by your projected grades. Prioritise. Work hard. Ensure you are as prepared as possible by the start of your exams in May. Make sure that, when you walk out of your exam in June, you know that you have given it your all and could not have reasonably done any more. Make sure that you can hold your head high in August, confident that you could not have worked any harder.

Go to interventions that you know you need, find your revision style and ask for help and revision materials (questions and past papers) they really help. Also, remember that stressing yourself will only delay your revision, so if you need a break, take a break and continue doing things you enjoy

Take it seriously so you don't regret it



Year 11: Your Best Year for Attendance

Attendance below 50%: **2 grades below target**

Attendance between 50-80%: **1.5 grades below target**

Attendance between 80-90%: **1 grade below target in half of your GCSEs**

Attendance between 90-100%: **0.5 - 1 grade above target**

All GCSEs matter, but...

What does a GCSE Grade 4+ in English and Maths mean for students?

- 1. Access to A-levels and BTECs:** Most colleges require Grade 4+ in English and Maths for Level 3 courses.
- 2. Apprenticeship Eligibility:** Many apprenticeships require a minimum of Grade 4 in both subjects.
- 3. University Pathway:** Universities typically require Grade 4+ in English and Maths for entry.
- 4. Better Job Prospects:** Employers often use these grades as a basic hiring requirement.
- 5. No Mandatory Resits:** Students avoid having to retake English or Maths post-16.
- 6. Vocational Course Access:** Enables entry to higher-level vocational qualifications.
- 7. Public Sector Careers:** Open doors to roles like teachers, nurses, police officers or paramedics.
- 8. Core Skills Proof:** Demonstrates essential literacy and numeracy to employers.
- 9. Global Opportunities:** Recognised internationally for study or work abroad.
- 10. Career Progression:** Required for many professional qualifications and promotions.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 11th November 2026

6.00 – 8.00 pm



Sixth Form entry requirements

In order to gain entry into Robert Smyth Academy Sixth Form you will need a minimum of 40 points, including a grade 4 in English and maths, from your best eight GCSEs.

Students who want to study four A Levels should have 56 points or above from their best 8 GCSEs (average grade 7).

Your current achievement grades will give you a good indication of where you are and what you will need to improve on to reach your post-16 goal.



**“Genius is 1% inspiration,
and 99% perspiration”.**

(Einstein)

WORKING HARDER

THE COUNTDOWN CONTINUES...

**WB 28th September – In Class
Assessment Week**

WB 2nd November - Trial Exams

**27 school WEEKS remaining
until the final GCSE exams**

SELF ASSESSMENT / CONVERSATION STARTER BETWEEN PARENT AND STUDENT

	Yes/No
1. I have a regular time for studying each day.	
2. I write my assignments/work down and check the list regularly.	
3. I always have the materials I need when I start to study.	
4. I rarely distract myself with wandering away from the task when studying.	
5. I do work in chunks to avoid last minute work.	
6. I am the type of person who goes to lunchtime/after school support.	

Imagine that Current Assessment Grades were the final GCSE results...

- **Attending “After school study” Homework Club**
- **Attending subject interventions**
- **Preparing and implementing a revision plan**
- **Creating and using revision materials**
- **Increased focus in lessons**
- **Mentoring (Peer/Subject)**
- **Strategic seating plan in lessons**
- **Revision skills with Tutor**
- **Talking with subject teachers about where they need to improve**

There **IS still time for you to make a difference.**

2026 - 2027 Key Dates for Year 11

Autumn Term	
1 st September	6 th Form - Applications Open
WB 14 th September	Revision timetable and revision tips shared with students via Satchel One
WB 14 th September	Knowledge Organisers issued
17 th September	Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening (Presentation)
WB 28 th September	Year 11 In Class Assessment Week
WB 12 th October	Revision timetable completed in tutor time for Trial Exams
14 th October	Year 11 Careers Day
Half Term	
WB 27 th October	Revision Skills Week in PSHE
28 th October	Year 11 Exams Assembly
WB 2 nd November	Knowledge Organisers issued
WB 2 nd November	Year 11 Trial Exam Week

GCSE Subject	Details of Revision Classes and interventions
Art	Tuesday and Friday Lunchtime in K3
Business	Thursdays in L29 & L30 from 15:15 - 16.00.
Computer Science	6th Form Mentoring – Break times in Bragg hall. Targeted intervention, afterschool sessions will be invite only and bespoke.
Science - Combined and Separates	Tuesday afterschool (by invitation) for combined Separate Science on Tuesday after school (invitation only) Targeted tutor time intervention (by invitation) Wednesday 8.45-9.10 Peer mentoring with 6th form mentors (by invitation). Day TBC
Design and Technology	GCSE intervention Week A Wed After school - 3:15 - 4:00 Week B Wed after school – 3.15 - 4.00
Dance	Students are invited to book the studio for practical work at lunchtimes and afterschool. One to one session available at tutor time.
Drama	Students are welcome to book either the Drama Studio or the Hammond Studio for practical work during break, lunch and afterschool. Thursday Week B lunch time Starting from 8 th October for written exam/coursework support.
English	Wednesday Afterschool - 3.20 - 4.00pm starting 9th September
English	6th Form Mentoring will be available to a small group of selected students Thursday am at tutor time in the library.

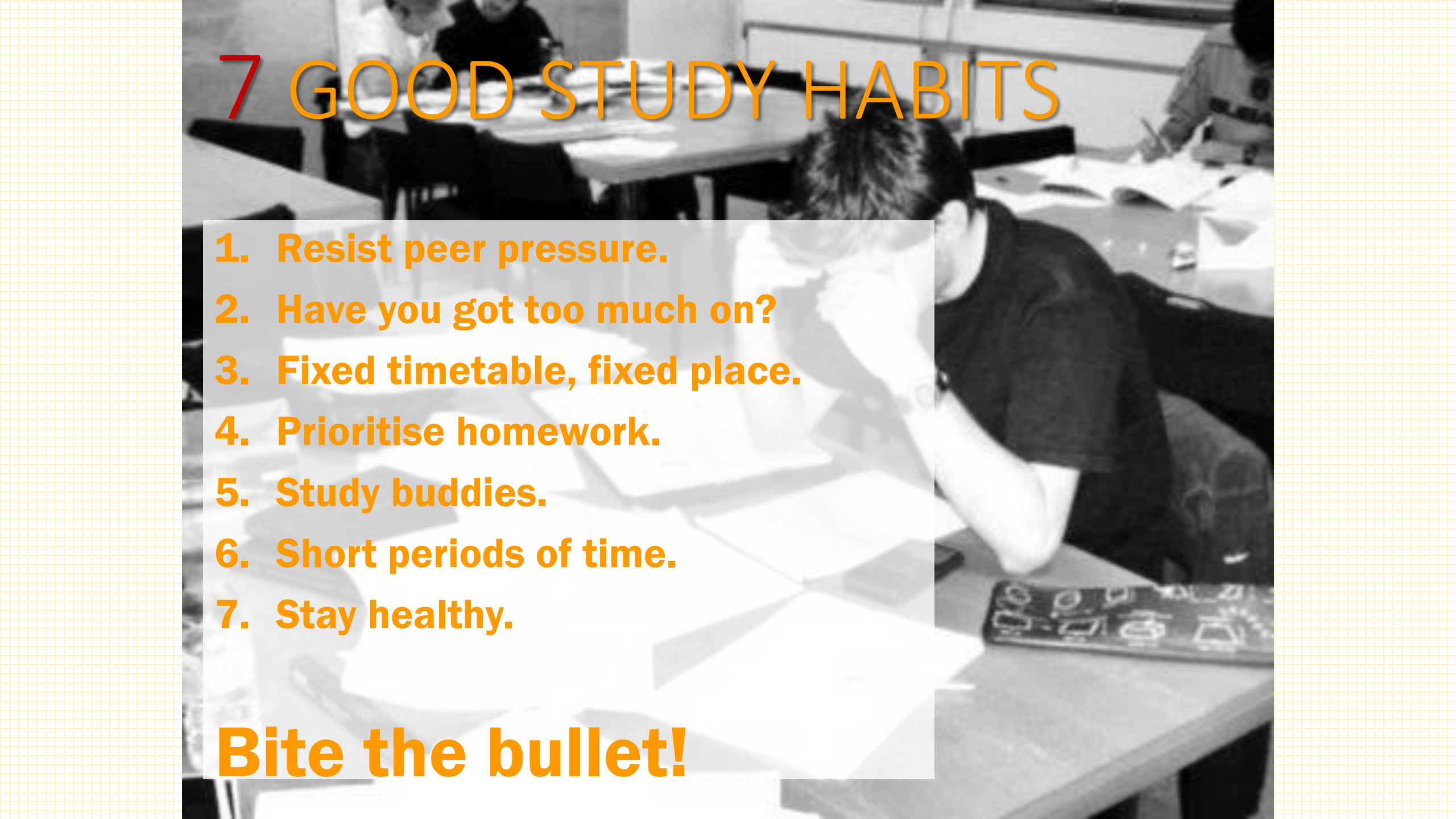


IT'S NOT EASY TO BE SELF-DISCIPLINED...



“The major reason for teenagers falling short of academic potential is a failure to exercise self discipline”

7 GOOD STUDY HABITS



1. Resist peer pressure.
2. Have you got too much on?
3. Fixed timetable, fixed place.
4. Prioritise homework.
5. Study buddies.
6. Short periods of time.
7. Stay healthy.

Bite the bullet!



Year 11

Student Perspective

Mathematics

+

=

\$

-

X

%

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Mathematics GCSE

- 3 exam papers
- 1 hour 30 minutes
- 1 non-calculator paper, 2 calculator papers
- All content could come up on all papers
- Tier of entry decided post-trial exams.

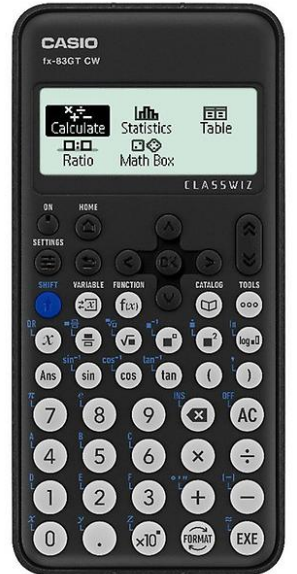
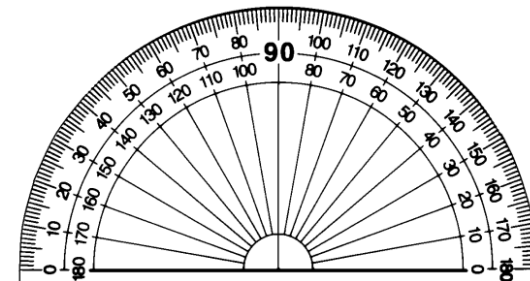
Higher
Grades 9 – 3*

Foundation
Grades 5 – 1

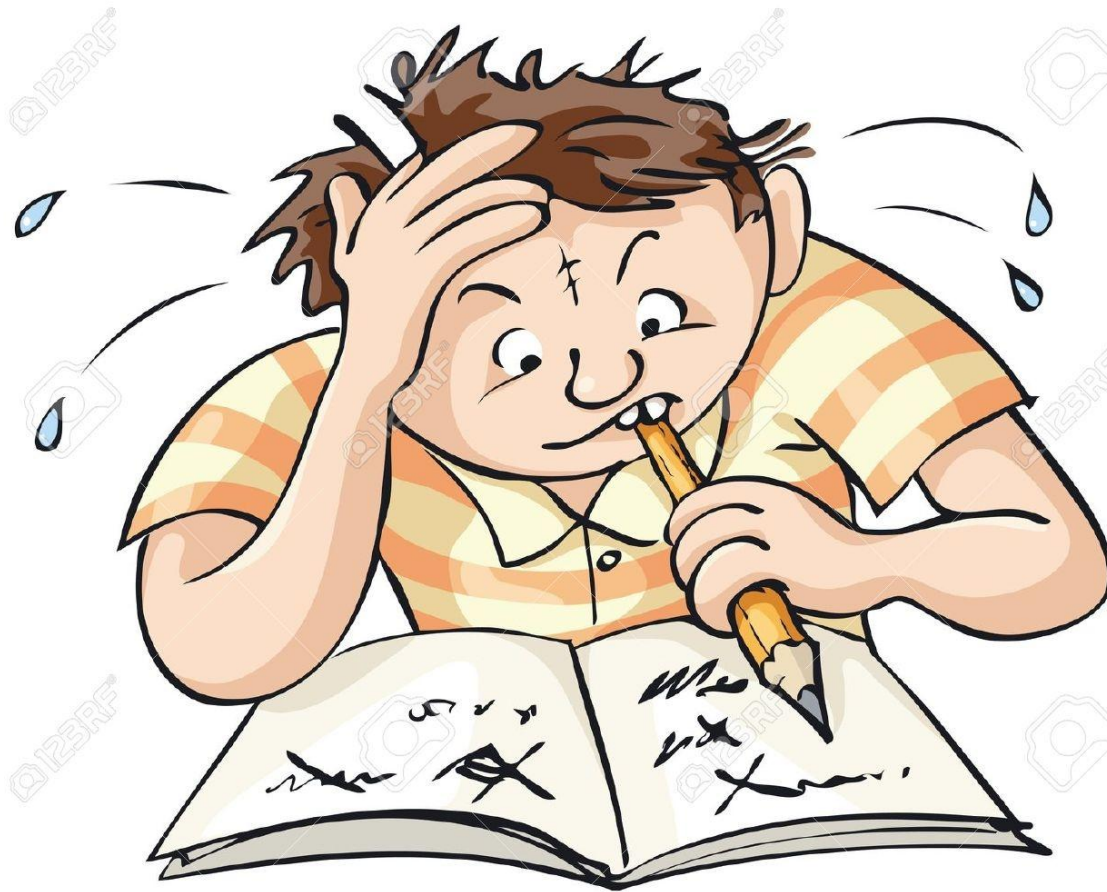
Preparation

Equipment

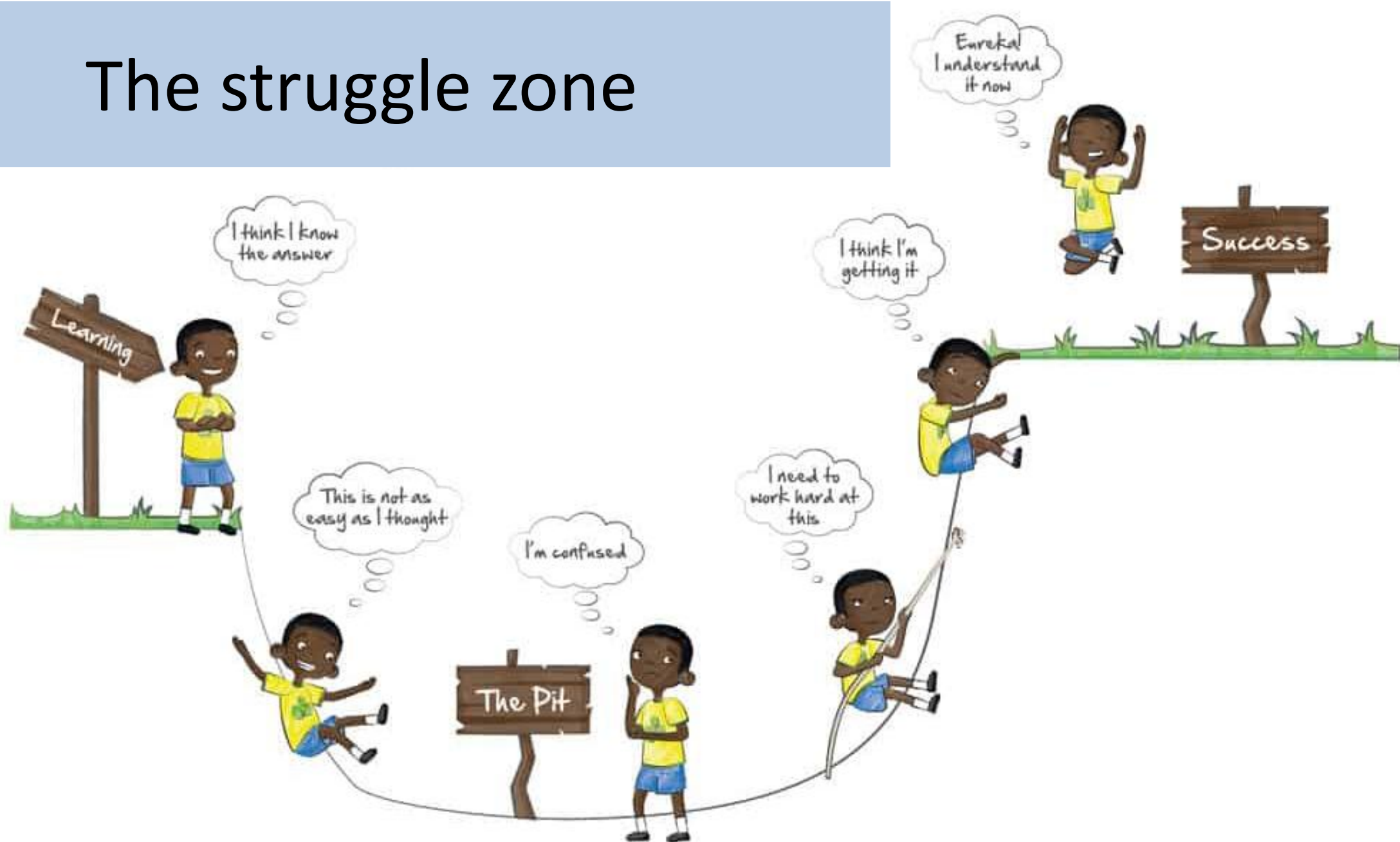
- Calculator (£11, Casio fx83-gt), compass, protractor, pens, pencils, ruler, rubber
- **Exam board**
 - Edexcel
- **Exam dates**
 - P1 – Friday 14th May 2027 (am)
 - P2 – Thursday 27th May 2027 (am)
 - P3 – Monday 14th June 2027 (am)



How do I revise?



The struggle zone



Revision

Little and often.

Sparx Maths

Homework booklets – one per topic.

Low stakes tests

Past exam papers

Revision guides, £6.50

Websites – RSA maths, maths genie, corbett maths

Paper predictions – firstclassmaths, hannahkettlemaths

Sparx Maths

- Online homework
- Independent learning section

The screenshot shows the 'Independent Learning' section of the Sparx Maths website. At the top right is a 'Previous activity' button. Below this are three input fields: 'Search for topics:' with a text box containing 'Enter topic name or code', 'Your curriculum:' with a dropdown menu set to 'GCSE', and 'Default level:' with a dropdown menu set to 'Level 4'. Below these fields is a 'Select a topic:' section with six blue buttons arranged in a 3x2 grid. Each button has a topic name and a small icon: 'Number' (arithmetic symbols), 'Algebra' (math expression $(a+b)$), 'Ratio and Proportion' (pie chart), 'Geometry' (pyramid), 'Probability' (dice), and 'Statistics' (bar chart).

Levels

1. Foundation GCSE
 2. Top end of foundation
 3. Ideal if on the borderline of H and F
 4. Higher tier
 5. Grade 8 and 9
- There is also a personal practice section which picks questions you have struggled with in your homeworks.

RSA maths website

- All resources you need are on the maths website
- <http://www.rswebsites.co.uk/maths/>
- Click GCSE and follow the appropriate links

Hello

Through this website you will find links to information and useful resources to supplement your study.

The maths team hope you find the information useful. Please ask your maths teacher if you cannot find what you are looking for.

KEY STAGE
3

GCSE

MENTORING

FURTHER A
LEVEL 2017

MATHS
NEWS

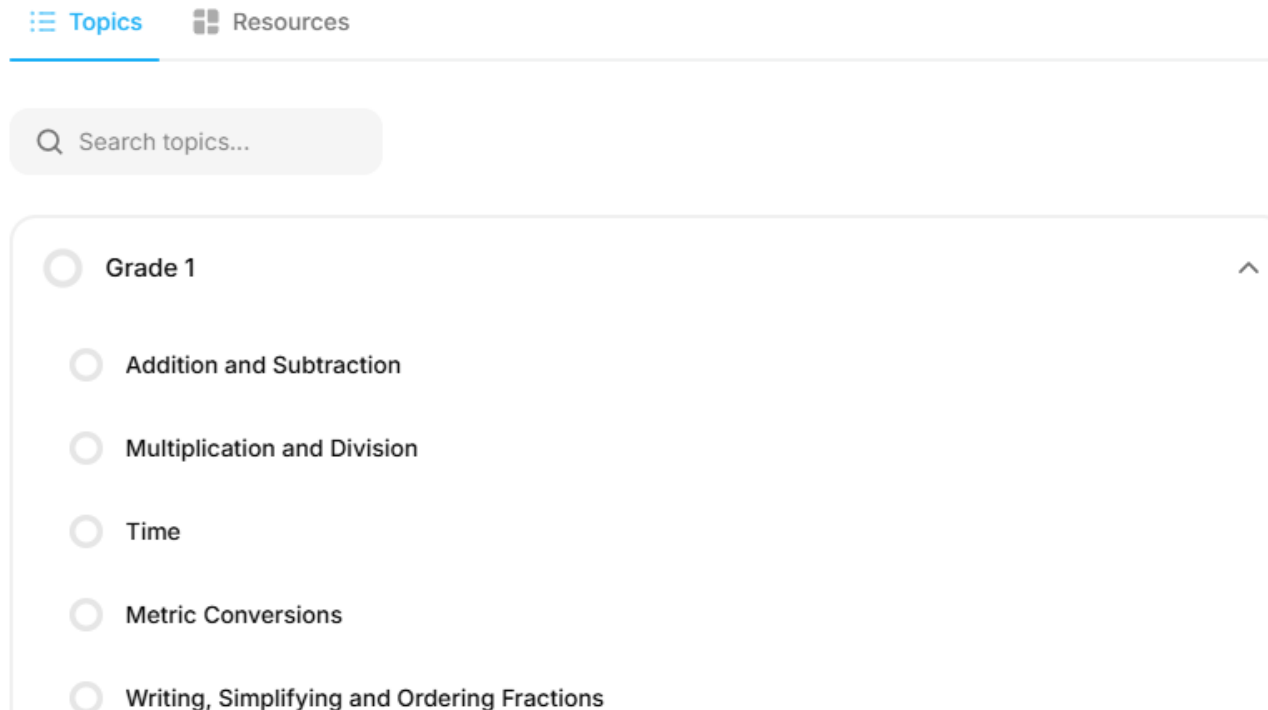
LEGACY
FAST
TRACK

Username: robertsmyth

Password: factor

Maths genie

- Video explanations, past exam questions and solutions.
- <https://mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse/maths/edexcel>



Mistakes are

Expected

Respected

Inspected

Corrected



Revision and exam tips

Use your mock papers from year 10 to identify topics you need to work on rather than 'just revising everything'.

Always show full working out.

Don't leave any questions blank – you might pick up method marks.

Practice past exam questions regularly – under timed conditions.

Underline/highlight important words in questions.

Check working out – hard to spot mistakes so practise this – redo questions to help check.

Don't cross out your working, unless you have written something else.

Try to be confident.

And finally

The only way to
learn mathematics
is to
do mathematics

Revision Planning Tool

Day	9:00 – 10:00	10:00 – 11:00	11:00 – 12:00	12:00 – 1:00	1:00 – 2:00	2:00 – 3:00	3:00 – 4:00	4:00 – 5:00	5:00 – 6:00	6:00 – 7:00	7:00 – 8:00	8:00 – 9:00	9:00 – 10:00	Subjects
Monday	RSA													English
Tuesday														Maths
Wednesday														Science
Thursday														
Friday														
Saturday														
Sunday														

Every student has access to this planning tool plus a few tips to continue your momentum or get you started, shared in September. Posted on Satchel One

MAKING REVISION WORK

- **Divide each subject in to chunks**
- **Spend more time on the subjects / topics you find harder**
- **Doing is better than reading.....keep your revision active**
- **Take short breaks between sessions**
- **Use what motivates you as rewards**

WHAT WORKS?

Table 1 Effectiveness of Techniques Reviewed	
Technique	Extent and Conditions of Effectiveness
Practice testing	Very effective under a wide array of situations
Distributed practice	Very effective under a wide array of situations
Interleaved practice	Promising for math and concept learning, but needs more research
Elaborative interrogation	Promising, but needs more research
Self-explanation	Promising, but needs more research
Rereading	Distributed rereading can be helpful, but time could be better spent using another strategy
Highlighting and underlining	Not particularly helpful, but can be used as a first step toward further study
Summarization	Helpful only with training on how to summarize
Keyword mnemonic	Somewhat helpful for learning languages, but benefits are short-lived
Imagery for text	Benefits limited to imagery-friendly text, and needs more research

John Dunlosky et al, Improving Students' Learning with Effective Learning Techniques: Promising Directions from Cognitive and Educational Psychology, Psychological Science in the Public Interest 14(1) (2013): 4–58.

Revision



- **DO** – Revision starts with activity (*doing*)
- **REVIEW** – Quiz yourself or get someone else to quiz you on the things you have learnt
- **GO BACK THROUGH** – Go back through the things you didn't know or could not remember

WHAT WORKS?

- Self Testing / Quizzing
- Distributed Practice
- Mind Mapping
- Revision cards
- Practising Exam questions
- Highlighting text and reading (if used to support another strategy)
- RSA website: (www.robertsmyth.tgacademy.org.uk)

Revising is like everything else – you get better at it the more you practise.

Knowledge Organisers



Year 11 – Half Term 1
Knowledge Organiser



Name.....

Tutor Group.....

Using Your Knowledge Organiser

- **Self Quizzing**
 - Strategy 1 - Look, cover, write, check, correct.
 - Strategy 2 – Quiz Questions
 - Strategy 3 – Partner Quizzing
 - Strategy 4 – Flash Cards
- **Spacing Practice**



Robert Smyth
Academy

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Academy Sports

Careers

Homework

Revision support for students

Subject Online Resources

Support Websites

The Library

Welcome to
Robert Smyth Academy

Search and find information about your academy

Enter your search term...

Popular Items

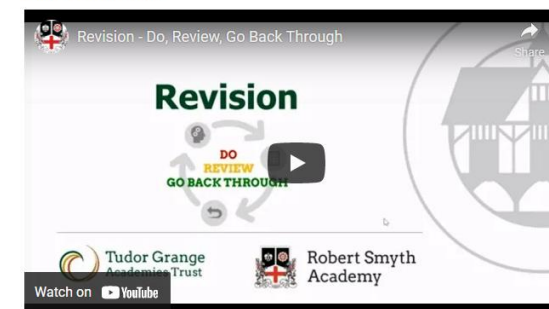
[Report Absence](#) [Public Consultation](#)

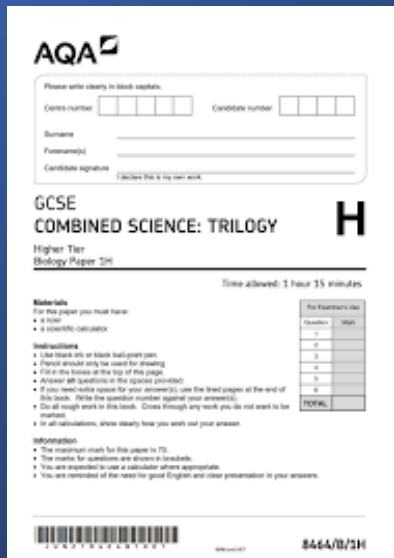
[Admissions](#) [Proms 2021!](#) [Term Dates](#)

[Uniform](#) [Vacancies](#)

Revision support for students

All Students





Science Exam Format

Each student has 6 exams in science

Combined Science - 2X Biology chemistry physics each **1hr 15mins**

Separate Science- 2x biology chemistry physics **1hr 45 mins**

The papers assess specific topics, so students need to keep on top of what is on each paper to help focus their revision.
3 before may half term and 3 after may half term

Science Trial Exams



1. Week commencing 2nd November 2026

Paper 1 content (year 9/10 learning) x3

2. Week commencing 22nd February 2027-

Mainly paper 2 content (year 11 learning) x3

Students need to **commit to revision** so we can select the **best tier of entry** for each individual. We need evidence that students can achieve on a higher paper to be able to enter them for higher.

Final tier of entry to be decided after the second set of trial exams.

Contents

☒ Use the tick boxes to check off the topics you've completed.

Topic 1 — Cell Biology

Cells.....	1	☐
Microscopy.....	3	☐
More on Microscopy.....	4	☐
Cell Differentiation and Specialisation.....	5	☐
Chromosomes and Mitosis.....	6	☐
Binary Fission.....	7	☐
Culturing Microorganisms.....	8	☐
Stem Cells.....	10	☐
Diffusion.....	12	☐
Osmosis.....	13	☐
Active Transport.....	15	☐
Exchange Surfaces.....	16	☐
Exchanging Substances.....	17	☐
More on Exchanging Substances.....	18	☐

Topic 2 — Organisation

Cell Organisation.....	19	☐
Enzymes.....	20	☐
Investigating Enzymatic Reactions.....	21	☐
Enzymes and Digestion.....	22	☐
Food Tests.....	24	☐
The Lungs.....	25	☐
Circulatory System — The Heart.....	26	☐
Circulatory System — Blood Vessels.....	27	☐
Circulatory System — Blood.....	29	☐
Cardiovascular Disease.....	30	☐
Health and Disease.....	32	☐
Risk Factors for Non-Communicable Diseases.....	33	☐
Cancer.....	35	☐
Plant Cell Organisation.....	36	☐
Transpiration and Translocation.....	37	☐
Transpiration and Stomata.....	38	☐

Topic 3 — Infection and Response

Communicable Disease.....	40	☐
Viral, Fungal and Protist Diseases.....	41	☐
Bacterial Diseases and Preventing Disease.....	43	☐
Fighting Disease.....	44	☐
Fighting Disease — Vaccination.....	45	☐
Fighting Disease — Drugs.....	46	☐
Developing Drugs.....	47	☐
Monoclonal Antibodies.....	48	☐
Plant Diseases and Defences.....	50	☐

Topic 4 — Bioenergetics

Photosynthesis and Limiting Factors.....	51	☐
The Rate of Photosynthesis.....	52	☐
Respiration and Metabolism.....	53	☐
Aerobic and Anaerobic Respiration.....	54	☐
Exercise.....	55	☐

Topic 5 — Homeostasis

Homeostasis.....	56	☐
The Nervous System.....	57	☐
Synapses and Reflexes.....	58	☐
Investigating Reaction Times.....	59	☐
The Brain.....	60	☐
The Eye.....	61	☐
Correcting Vision Defects.....	62	☐
Controlling Body Temperature.....	63	☐
The Endocrine System.....	64	☐
Controlling Blood Glucose.....	65	☐
The Kidneys.....	66	☐
Kidney Failure.....	67	☐
Puberty and the Menstrual Cycle.....	68	☐
Controlling Fertility.....	69	☐
More on Controlling Fertility.....	70	☐
Adrenaline and Thyroxine.....	71	☐
Plant Hormones.....	72	☐
Commercial Uses of Plant Hormones.....	73	☐

Topic 6 — Inheritance and Evolution

DNA.....	74	☐
The Structure of DNA.....	75	☐
Mutations.....	76	☐
Reproduction.....	77	☐
Meiosis.....	78	☐
More on Reproduction.....	79	☐
X and Y Chromosomes.....	80	☐
Genetic Diagrams.....	81	☐
Inherited Disorders.....	82	☐
The Work of Mendel.....	83	☐
Variation.....	84	☐
Evolution.....	85	☐
More About Evolution.....	86	☐
Selective Breeding.....	87	☐
Genetic Engineering.....	88	☐

Working Scientifically

The Scientific Method.....	2
Communication & Issues Created by Science.....	3
Risk.....	4
Designing Investigations.....	5
Collecting Data.....	6
Processing and Presenting Data.....	7
Units and Equations.....	9
Drawing Conclusions.....	10
Uncertainties and Evaluations.....	11

Section 1 — Motion and Forces

Distance, Displacement, Speed and Velocity.....	12
Acceleration.....	13
Distance/Time Graphs.....	14
Velocity/Time Graphs.....	15
Newton's First and Second Laws.....	16
Weight and Circular Motion.....	17
Investigating Motion.....	18
Inertia and Newton's Third Law.....	19
Momentum.....	20
Changes in Momentum.....	21
Stopping Distances and Reaction Times.....	22
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Energy Resources.....	28
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Measuring Waves.....	33
Wave Behaviour at Boundaries.....	34
Sound.....	35
Ultrasound.....	36
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Reflection.....	38
Investigating Refraction.....	39
Visible Light and Colour.....	40
Lenses.....	41

Lenses and Ray Diagrams.....	42
Electromagnetic Waves.....	43
Emitting and Absorbing EM Radiation.....	44
EM Waves for Communication.....	45
Microwaves and Infrared.....	46
More Uses of EM Waves.....	47
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Section 4 — Radioactivity

The Model of the Atom.....	49
Electron Energy Levels.....	50
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Background Radiation and Contamination.....	54
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PET Scanning and Radiotherapy.....	56
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Looking Into Space.....	63
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Section 6 — Forces and Energy

Energy Transfers and Systems.....	65
Work Done and Power.....	66
Forces.....	67
Forces and Vector Diagrams.....	68
Moments.....	69
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Section 7 — Electricity and Circuits

Current and Circuits.....	71
Potential Difference and Resistance.....	72
Investigating Components.....	73
Circuit Devices.....	74
Series and Parallel Circuits.....	75
More on Series and Parallel Circuits.....	76
Energy in Circuits.....	77
Power in Circuits.....	78
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Collecting Data.....	6
Processing and Presenting Data.....	7
Units and Equations.....	9
Drawing Conclusions.....	10
Uncertainties and Evaluations.....	11

Topic 1 — Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table

Atoms.....	12
Elements.....	13
Compounds.....	14
Chemical Equations.....	15
Mixtures and Chromatography.....	16
More Separation Techniques.....	17
Distillation.....	18
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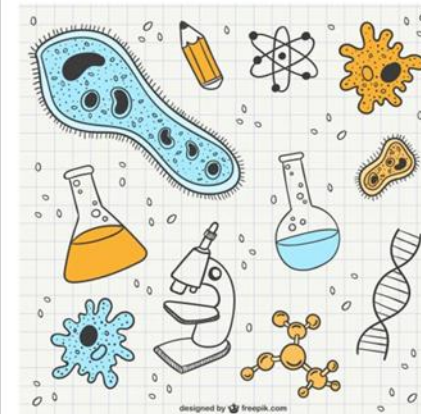
Supporting Science Revision- If they can remember
they can achieve

- **Check and encourage homework** completion (most will be exam question based)
- Support students' independent study by **testing them**, using their notes or study guides.
- **Download past papers** nearly all available on the AQA website students do not have to get them from teachers
- **Support attendance to Tuesday afterschool interventions** if you have received an invitation

Biology

Homework Booklet 1

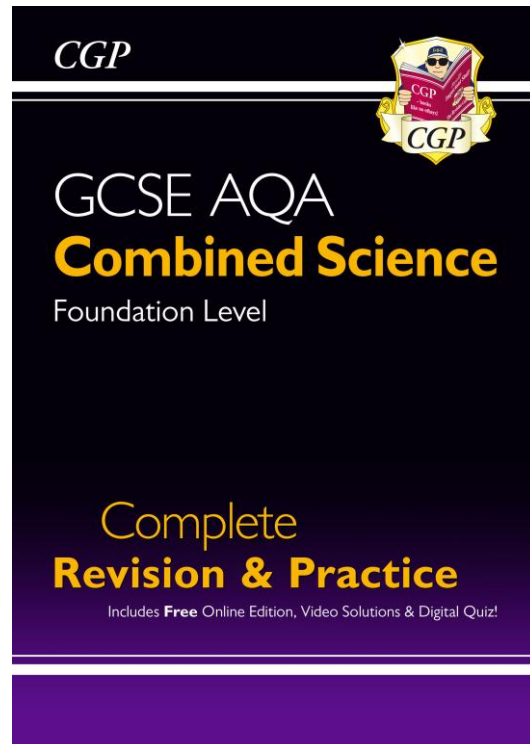
Biology Paper 1	
Topics in the Paper:	
B1	Cell Biology
B2	Cell Organisation
B3	Infection and Response
B4	Bioenergetics
Biology Paper 2	
Topics in the Paper:	
B5	Homeostasis and Response
B6	Genetics, Inheritance and Evolution
B7	Ecology



Introducing... **Sparx Science**

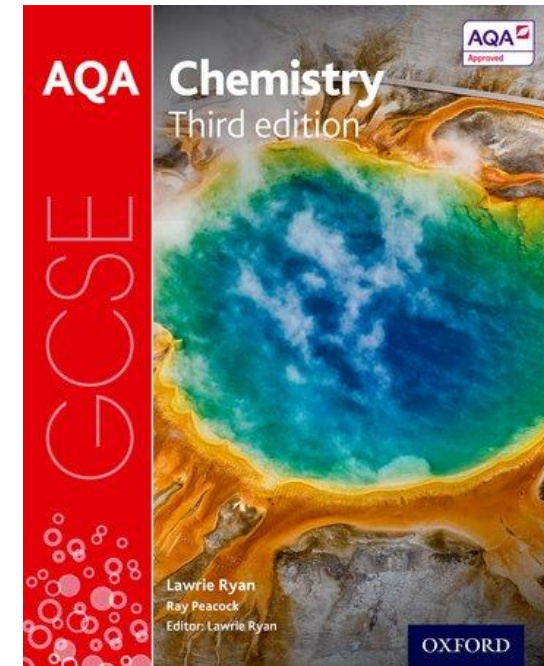


Revision Guides



Available via My
Child At School

Available online via
Kerboodle website –
Alongside lots of other
revision materials.



Useful Online Resources

BBC bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h>

REVISION SCIENCE

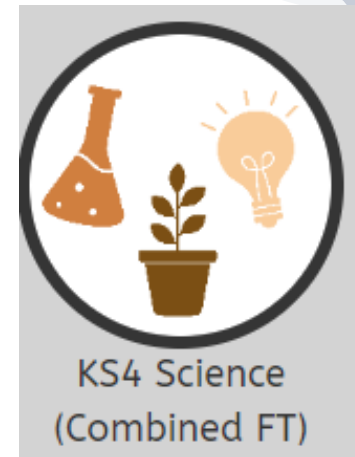
<https://revisionscience.com/gcse-revision/science/science-gcse-past-papers/aqa-gcse-science-past-papers>

PMT revision & question packs

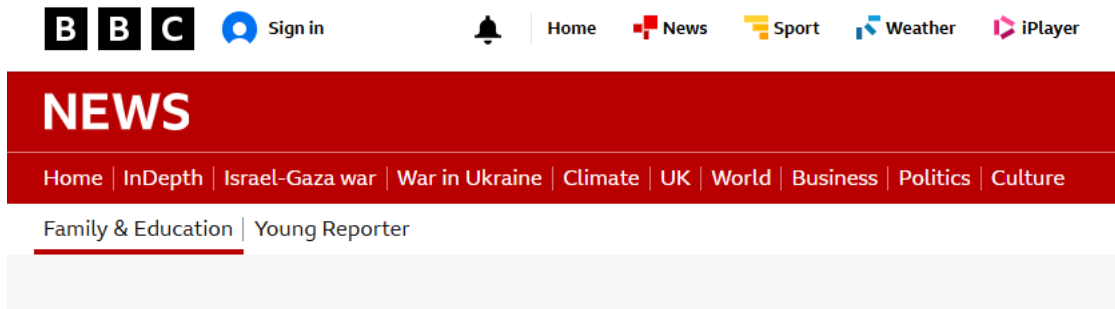
www.physicsandmathstutor.com

AQA- Assessment resources

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/assessment-resources>



GCSE English



The GCSE pass rate has remained stable – with 67.3% of all grades across England, Wales and Northern Ireland at 4/C and above.

That's only very slightly down from 67.4% last year.

What we're seeing is a picture of consistency, broadly, after years of flux in 2020 and 2021 when exams were cancelled because of the Covid pandemic and results were based on teachers' assessments.

In fact, today's pass rate is exactly the same as it was in 2019.

2. Resit numbers rise again

3. Girls' grades slip again (though still out performing boys by 5.8%)

Standards have risen and we are now back to pre-covid exam boundaries.

RSA Vs National Picture

► Nationally

The English pass rate at Level 4 was 59.5 per cent

RSA English = 85.6%

Language 4+ = 84.7%

5+ = 67.2%

7+ = 23.7%

Literature 4+= 84.7%

5+ = 75%

7+ = 27.8%

English Literature

Paper One: Shakespeare and 19th Century Novel

- One essay question on *Macbeth* (with an extract to start from)
- One essay question on *Jekyll and Hyde* (with an extract to start from)
- 40% of GCSE. One hour 45 minutes.

Paper Two: Modern Texts and Poetry

- One essay question on *An Inspector Calls*
- One essay comparing poems from a list we have studied.
- Two questions based on unseen poems.
- 60% of GCSE. Two hours 15 minutes.

English Language

Paper One: The Fiction Paper

- Four short questions on reading /comprehension of one extract from fiction.
- One creative writing task, description or narrative.
- 50% of GCSE. One hour 45 minutes.

Paper Two: The Non Fiction Paper

- Four short questions on reading of two non-fiction texts, including one from the 19th Century.
- One writing task on writing to present a point of view.
- 50% of GCSE. One hour 45 minutes.

How are pupils going to be successful this year?

- ▶ They need to listen to the expert in the room - their teacher!
- ▶ They need to know the texts they have studied inside out.
- ▶ They will need to understand how their work is being marked (assessment objectives).
- ▶ They need to make sure that they are doing more than the bare minimum.

Teachers will equip you with the skill, but you need to put in the effort!

What else?

- ▶ If you are invited to intervention after school – please go! **(These started last week)**
- ▶ Homework is set weekly and compulsory.
- ▶ Revision booklets to take home, nearer the exam.
- ▶ Your teachers' doors are open - talk to them about any concerns, share any essays you have done for feedback.
- ▶ **If you bring it, they will mark it.**

Summer 2027 Exam Dates



Less than 8
months!

▶ **GCSE English Language Dates (2027)**

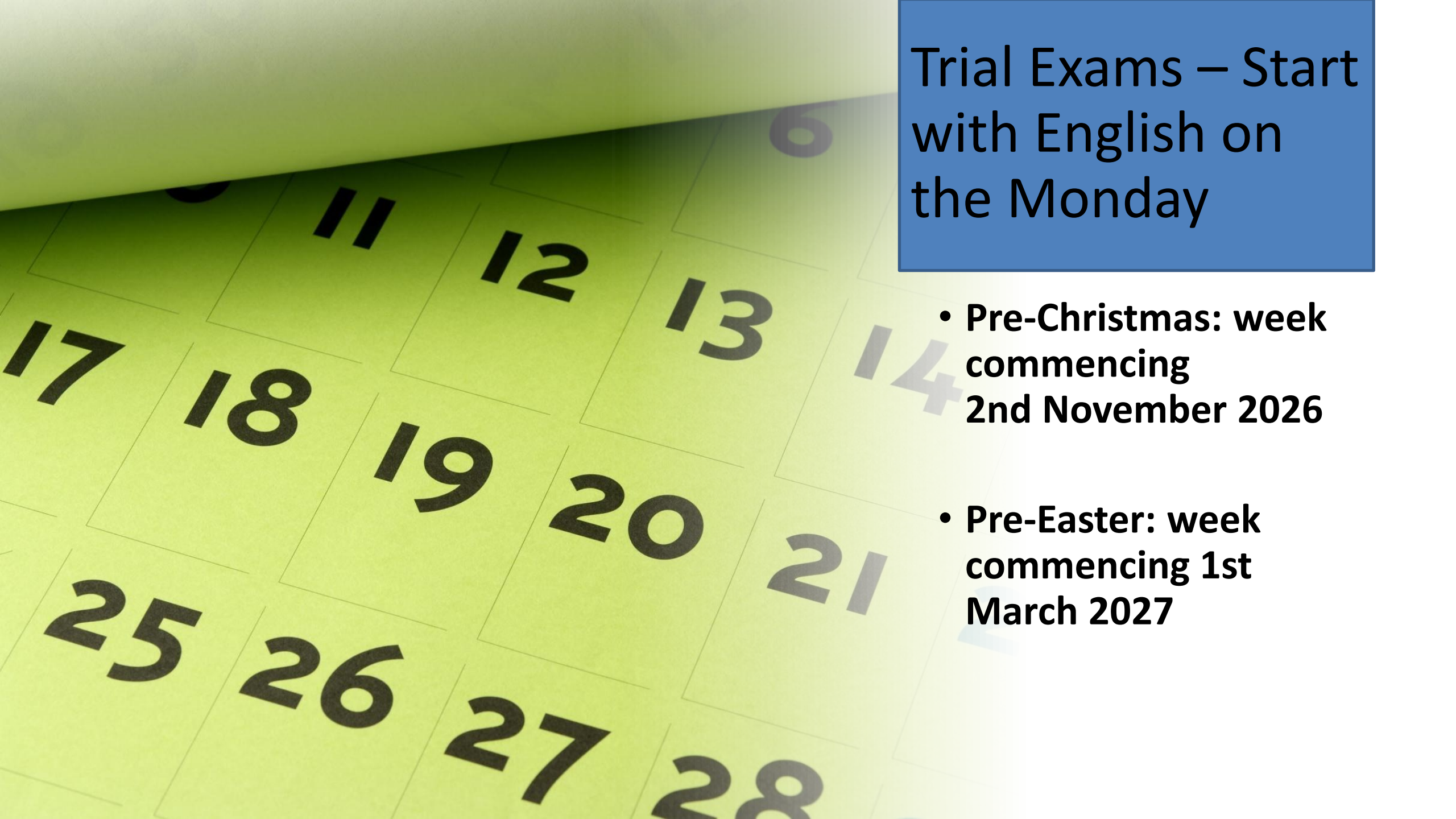
▶ Paper 1: Morning of Monday, 24 May 2027

▶ Paper 2: Morning of Tuesday, 8 June 2027

▶ **GCSE English Literature Dates (2027)**

▶ Paper 1: Morning of Wednesday, 12 May 2027

▶ Paper 2: Morning of Wednesday, 19 May 2027



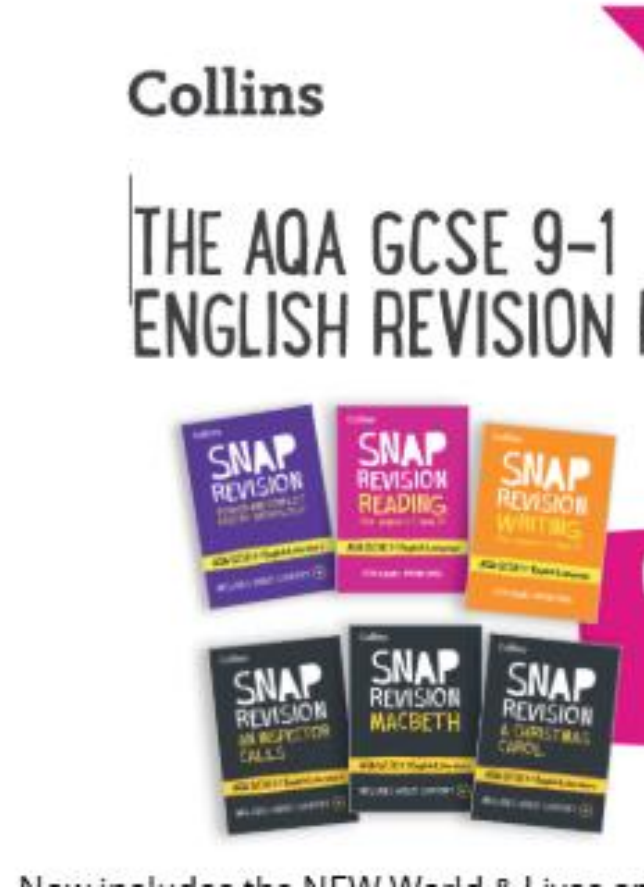
Trial Exams – Start with English on the Monday

- **Pre-Christmas: week commencing 2nd November 2026**
- **Pre-Easter: week commencing 1st March 2027**

Collins Harper (Collins.co.uk)

SNAP GUIDES

Available individually direct from
Collins Harper on-line.



Revision Sources

- ▶ Your knowledge Organisers
- ▶ BBC Bite-Size (Language and Literature)
- ▶ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty>
- ▶ Spark Notes (Shakespeare)
- ▶ <https://www.sparknotes.com/>
- ▶ You Tube Tutorials (Mr Bruff and Mr Salles)
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff>

The Essentials



Practice at home. The only way to get better at writing is to do more writing.



Attend extra sessions put on in the department.



Prepare for the November and March mock as though they are the real thing -



Don't be complacent – the boundaries may well rise again next summer – be prepared!

Share your concerns. Your teacher's door is always open!



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Homework for the next few weeks

Students:

- **Revision**

Parents:

- **Make sure your child has a plan and that this is shared with you**
- **Make sure that they have everything they need**
- **Support them by quizzing them and testing them on what they have learnt**



19th August 2027: will be your results day