



# Supporting students with their GCSEs



## Supporting Students in Year 11

Here are a few tips on how to help your child with their upcoming GCSE Qualifications. Some exam stress is common, but with your help we hope most of this can be tackled with good preparation.

Entry for GCSEs is attendance, ability and progress dependent. Students are monitored throughout their time at Woodlane to ensure that the qualifications are suitable for them. Some students will be doing different exams and not all students will take GCSEs. Ask your child or contact the school if you are unsure.



The following pages in this pack have been included because they are specifically relevant to your child.

### Supporting all subjects:

- Practise past exam papers. This will greatly benefit students. Find the correct exam board on the following information sheets and include that in a Google search for GCSE Past Papers.
- The BBC Bitesize website contains a wide range of information on all GCSE subjects. Students can complete practice quizzes and use the study guides.
- Plan, prepare and discuss the exams with your child. Exam anxiety is normal and there are many ways to help with this. Have a look at some of the attached information packs to get some ideas about preparing and revising.
- Most students will receive 25% extra time for each of their GCSE exams. Students are tested by the examinations boards and anyone who qualifies for further support, i.e. a reader, a scribe, etc. will have that support applied for and if appropriate supplied.
- Create a homework and revision schedule with your child. Plan for time each night to do set homework or work through any of the exam support listed on the following pages.

### Supporting Entry Level Qualifications:

- These are not the same as GCSEs but are a recognised qualification that tests pupil's ability at a lower level across all subjects. Where students do not meet the entry-requirements for a GCSE they will have the opportunity to complete an Entry Level. They also provide a backup qualification in case things go wrong.
- Students should ensure they understand the correct words, terms and phrases that are commonly used in each subject to enable them to answer questions independently.
- The new Step up to English course replaces the entry level and focuses on a range of topics designed to develop skills in reading, writing and spoken language. Students will achieve a silver or gold award. All examinations are internally-set. Students will receive suitable prior notice, and the school website will be updated to highlight these dates. Please contact Ms Jermain if you have any questions.



## Supporting progress in GCSE **English Language and English Literature**:

- **Exam Board:** AQA
- **Texts:** Students completing the **Language and Literature GCSE** are studying a range of texts, including *A Christmas Carol*, *An Inspector Calls* and *The Tempest*. Copies of these have/will be sent home when relevant. Although it is not necessary to purchase these books, please discuss them with your child, (you can find extracts on the internet) and help them prepare for the range of questions that will be asked.

- **Exams:**

### English Language

- **Paper 1 : ‘Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing’ (06 June 2017 am)**
  - **Section A:** Students will be asked to consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers using extracts from novels and short stories from the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century.
  - **Section B:** Students will be asked to produce a piece of descriptive or narrative writing. As a stimulus for students’ own writing, there will be a choice of scenario, written prompt or visual image.
- **Paper 2: ‘Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives (12 June 2017 am)**
  - **Section A:** Students will be given two linked texts (sources) from different time periods and genres in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader. The sources will be non-fiction and literary non-fiction. They will be drawn from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and either the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century depending on the time period assessed in Paper 1.
  - **Section B:** Students will produce an extended piece of writing related to the theme of Section A. It will specify audience, purpose and form. Students will be given a range of opinions, statements and writing scenarios to provoke a response.

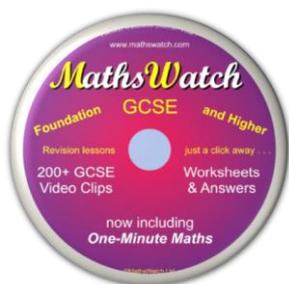
### English Literature

- **Paper 1: ‘Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel’ (22 May 2017 am)**
  - **Section A:** Students will answer one question on *The Tempest*. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.
  - **Section B:** Students will answer one question on *A Christmas Carol*. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.
- **Paper 2: ‘Modern Texts and Poetry (26 May 2017 am)**
  - **Section A:** Students will answer one question from a choice of two on *An Inspector Calls*.
  - **Section B:** Students will study one cluster of poems from the AQA Poetry Anthology *Poems Past and Present*. We have chosen the *Power and Conflict* cluster. There are 15 poems in this cluster. Poems are from 1789-present. Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem and one of their choice from the same cluster.
  - **Section C:** Unseen Poetry: Students will answer questions on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

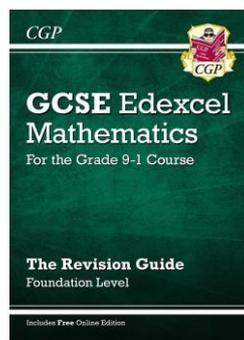


## Supporting progress in GCSE **Mathematics**:

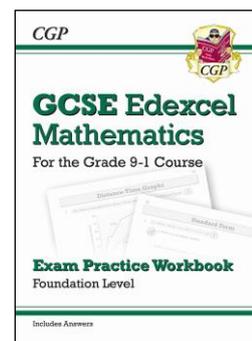
- **Exam Board:** Edexcel Foundation
- **Exams:**
  - The GCSE Maths qualification will consist of 2 exam papers, which will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
  - The new GCSE curriculum awards pupils with Grades 9-1 rather than A\*-G.
- **Questions:**
  - A large proportion of the questions will be word problems. Being able to understand the terms and phrases used will ensure students can answer the questions correctly.
  - Revising with past exam papers will really help pupils to become accustomed to the type of questions that they will encounter in the actual exam.
  - Pupils should always show their working out for questions that are more than 1 mark.
- **Websites:**
  - [www.MyMaths.co.uk](http://www.MyMaths.co.uk)
    - Pupils can access interactive lessons and complete homework online. Pupils receive instant feedback and progress can be tracked by the teacher.
  - [www.MrBartonMaths.com/gcse.htm](http://www.MrBartonMaths.com/gcse.htm)
    - Pupils have access to exam style questions grouped by grade and topic. This is extremely useful when pupils require exam practice in specific topics.
    - Pupils can view and print actual past exam papers to help them prepare for the final exam. Mark schemes and video solutions are also provided for pupils to check their answers.
- **MathsWatch DVD:**
  - Pupils have access to video clips and worksheets for all topics in the new GCSE Curriculum.
- **Books:**
  - The revision guide and exam practice workbook are excellent together, as they follow the same topics in sequence from start to finish. Each question is graded accordingly to show pupils the level of difficulty.
  - The revision guide will help pupils to understand a concept, while the workbook will test their ability apply this concept to answer exam style questions.



£5.00  
(Deposit Only)



£2.50



£2.50

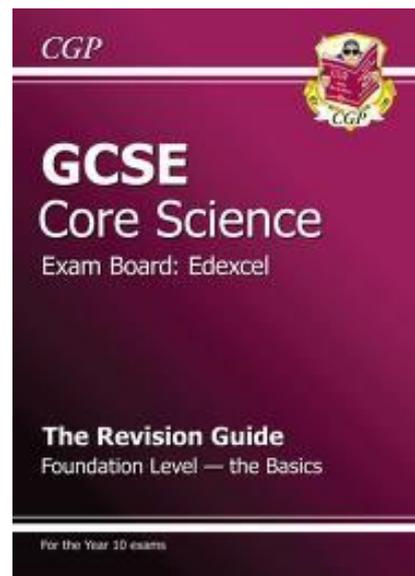
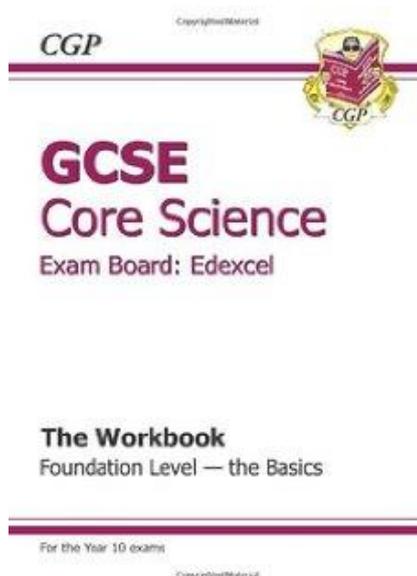


## Supporting progress in GCSE Science:

- **Exam Board:** Edexcel
- **Questions:** Reading questions and practise maths operations and problem solving: Two common problems for students in Science GCSE are not understanding the question that has been asked and inability to use correct formulae and mathematical operations to solve the problem. Read books, magazines and newspapers related to science with your students to practise understanding. Go over the examples of problem solving shown in different topics on GCSE Science Bitesize website and use it as a template for making new practice tasks.
- **Exams:**
  - Controlled assessment: This will take place in February and will consist of evaluating each student's ability to plan, carry out and analyse practical task. Marks achieved in the controlled assessment have a value of 10% of the final GCSE grade.
  - 3 Exam Papers: The exams will take place in May/June and will test student's knowledge on the topics form Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each test is 1 hour and 20 min. long. Marks achieved in each paper have value of 30% of final GCSE grade.
  - The new GCSE curriculum awards pupils with Grades 9-1 rather than A\*-G.
- **Support:**

Students can use BBC Bitesize website as a free revision guide:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science/edexcel/>  
Make sure your child uses the web site every weekend to revise at least two topics.  
There is also a Science after school club every Wednesday to provide further GCSE support for Woodlane Year 11 pupils.
- **Books:**

Although books are not essential due to the large amount of free support available online, you can purchase a revision guide and workbook for GCSE Core Science **Edexcel** exam board for **Foundation Level** for around £5 each.

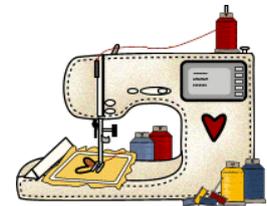




## Supporting progress in GCSE Design Technology: Product Design:

- **Exam Board:** AQA
- **Qualification:** This is a combination of Resistant Materials and Graphic Products courses. The course leads to a full GCSE in Design and Technology – Product Design.
- **What do pupils do?** In Year 10 they design, research and make a wooden box. They will set up one page PowerPoint slides for the different sheets required for their coursework as well as complete a number of A3 sheets for their design work. This will then become the layout for the main folder of work for the GCSE project which we start after Easter.
- **Work:**
  - o 60% Coursework – 20 pages of work in an A3 presentation folder
  - o 40% Exam – 2 hours. The exam is all the same level and students sit the same paper.
- **Options:** The choices of projects this year were an MP3 docking station or a lamp which has proven very popular with the current year 10.
- **Support:** The most informative website for design and technology Product Design is: [www.technologystudent.com](http://www.technologystudent.com). The best textbook for Product Design is: The Collins Revision Guide GCSE D & T Product Design Essentials which contains information about the coursework folder and all the topics for the exam.

## Supporting progress in GCSE Design Technology: Textiles



- **Exam Board:** AQA
- **Questions:** Students have failed to achieve the grade they are capable of in this subject in the past purely because of difficulties accessing the language of the test. Make sure you read past papers and have a look at the AQA GCSE Textiles Mark Schemes to see the kind of questions and answers expects. Students would benefit from understanding what is required in each question. The following is important to be aware of:
  - o If a question says 'annotate' it means that you should label the design, diagram etc. Details of fabrics, design ideas, components, explanations etc. can be written on.
  - o Questions that contain words such as state, list, identify, name, only require one or two word answers.
  - o Questions containing words such as explain, justify, analyse, describe require a more detailed answer.
- **Exams:**
  - o Unit 1 Written paper – In May or June. It is worth 50% of the final mark.
  - o Unit 2 Controlled Assessment – A final design product made by the students. This is completed throughout the year and worth 50% of the final mark.
- **Support:** Students would find it very useful to visit the following websites:
  - o [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-textiles-technology-4570/past-papers-and-mark-schemes](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-textiles-technology-4570/past-papers-and-mark-schemes)
  - o [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/textiles](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/textiles)
  - o <http://textiles4u.wikispaces.com>(useful for video links to exam topics)



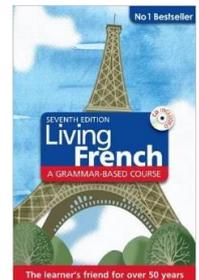
## Supporting progress in WJEC Entry Level Pathway: Life Skills

- **Exam Board:** WJEC
- **Questions:** This qualification is for students who would struggle to complete a GCSE exam/coursework or require additional support for Life Skills. This focuses on Design and Technology work in both cooking and textiles, and health and safety within the home and local community.
  - o Pupils may complete some coursework as part of their homework.
  - o Pupils may need to come in early for skills based tasks or trips, such as helping to serve breakfast in the school canteen.
- **Exams:**
  - o There is no exam in the subject, pupils will complete a portfolio of evidence over the year which will be assessed internally.
- **Support:** Students would find it very useful to visit the following websites:
  - o [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-textiles-technology-4570/past-papers-and-mark-schemes](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-textiles-technology-4570/past-papers-and-mark-schemes)
  - o [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/textiles](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/design/textiles)
  - o <http://textiles4u.wikispaces.com>(useful for video links to exam topics)



## Supporting progress in GCSE and Entry Level French

- **Exam Board:** AQA
- **Information:** Students opting to take French should achieve both qualifications over two years.
- **Questions:** Students need to practise their French regularly to ensure they are as comfortable with the language as possible by the time of their exams. Regular practice is far more useful than revision near the exams.
- **Exams:** There will be two exams towards the end of the school year. The French speaking exam, called a controlled assessment, will take place in school time first and students will be required to discuss 1:1 with Mr Fletcher a pre-prepared piece of French work. The French listening exam will be part of the Year 11 exam timetable in May or June.
- **Support:**
  - o Check that your son/daughter has done his/her homework (available on Woodlane website) and help them to revise using the BBC website (BBC Homepage – Learning – Languages – French - GCSE Bitesize – Listening (Foundation), Reading (Foundation), Speaking (Foundation))
  - o Encourage him / her to work through “Mr Fletcher’s Grammar Course” again.
  - o Encourage him / her to read French story booklets in Bibliobus series available from Mr Fletcher. Double merit for every booklet read!
  - o Encourage him / her to sit with Mr Fletcher during lunch on Tuesdays and practise speaking French!
- **Books:** A French dictionary or phrase book is probably the most important thing to help practise language skills. You could also look at a traditional course book teaching grammar and vocabulary such as: ‘Living French’. If you search for it online you can find it for a reasonable price, including a CD that may be useful.





## Supporting progress in GCSE Art & Design:

- **Exam Board:** Edexcel
- **Questions:** Pupils should be attending 1 or 2 of the extra-curricular art clubs as well as all art lessons in order to meet the required work standard in GCSE Art and Design. It is better to attend these clubs early in the year to avoid having panic near to the deadlines for both the exam and coursework.
- **Exams:**
  - o All coursework in Year 10 and Year 11 is split into 3 modules; Pop Art, Ceramics and the Mock Exam. These modules are worth a combined 60% of the GCSE grade.
  - o There is a 10 hour exam, (spread over two school days) in March/April in year 11. Starting at the end of January, pupils have 10 weeks to prepare for this exam and are normally very confident in their ideas and skills that they have explored in these 10 weeks. This exam module is worth 40% of their overall grade
- **Support:**
  - o Check the school website for H/W set,
  - o Encourage your son/daughter to attend art clubs,
  - o Ask about the projects your son/daughter is doing in school; this can help generate ideas on themes,
  - o Encourage your son/daughter to draw, photograph (Instagram) and write about their experience at home so they develop this important skill at GCSE level art,
  - o Pupils can purchase a small sketch book/diary to record small drawings and phrases that they may find relevant to their art projects.
  - o Encourage your son/daughter to visit exhibitions in your local area. Most art exhibits are free to the public.



## Supporting progress in Entry Level Humanities Pathway:

- **Exam Board:** WJEC – Welsh Board
- **Details:** All pupils at Woodlane will study Religious Education and Geography but only those who choose it as a KS4 option will take History. Those who choose to study History will leave Woodlane with a Diploma in Entry Level 3 Humanities. Those who do not take history will leave with a Certificate in Entry Level 3 Humanities
- **Exams:** This course is completely coursework based.
- **Units/Topics studied:**
  - o History - Year 10 (only some pupils)
    - A British Society in the Past- Britain and WWII
    - A non-British society in the past- the Final days of the Russian Tsar
    - Responses to conflict in world events- Israeli/ Palestinian conflict.
  - o History – Year 11 (only some pupils)
    - Historical change over time
    - History in the media
    - People and Protest
  - o RE/Geography – Year 10 (all pupils)
    - Volcanoes/Tsunamis and Earthquakes
    - Places of worship
    - Renewable energy
  - o RE/Geography – Year 11 (all pupils)
    - Religious charities
    - Religious festivals
    - Sustainable tourism
- **Support:** Most of the work for this subject will take place in lesson time. Ensure students remember to do their homework and are working within the specifications provided. To support progress, pick a subject from the topics above and discuss them with your child to improve their understanding.
- **Important Areas:**
  - o Emphasise the importance of attendance. Humanities is only one lesson a week (more if pupils take History) so any time missed can impact the completing of coursework.
  - o Monitor homework on the school website to ensure pupils are up to date, and check school diaries for notes on how to complete it.
  - o Encourage independent work wherever possible but set time aside to support with generating ideas about RE and Geography for pupils to develop further in their coursework.

## Supporting progress in GCSE level ICT - Cambridge Nationals ICT Level 1

The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, impacts all of our lives. This course reflects this and provides students with a solid understanding of the subject which they can use in their working lives.

Three themes are covered: business information systems, creative and technical.

- **Exam Board:** OCR – Cambridge Nationals ICT Level 1
- Scan this QR for helpful support materials including the **SPECIFICATION**. This is a document that clearly lays out what you need to learn. You can support your child by making time to go online and learn with them
- **Questions:** The most common problem for students in their GCSEs is not understanding the question that has been asked. Encourage your child to go online and try the practice tests to improve their exam skills.



**Exam:** Students will take the final exam 'R001' *Understanding Computer Systems* in May 2018.

There is 1 **coursework** units:

- R002 - Using ICT to create business solutions

These will take place in school time throughout the year and will cover practical knowledge and understanding of the key material.

**Support:** Wednesday morning 8.15-8.45 GCSE ICT support in school.

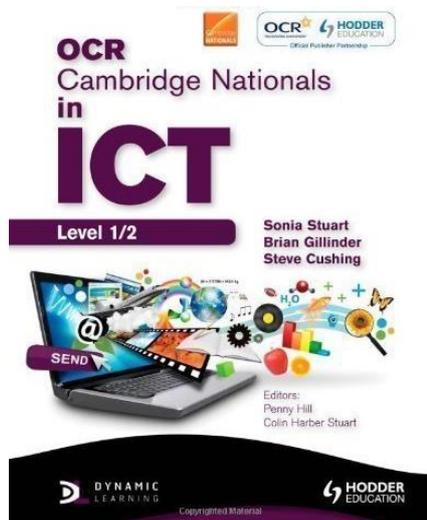
You can support your child by encouraging them to go online at home to improve their knowledge. Scan this QR for an alphabet of ICT terms with excellent links to further learning.



Scan this QR to find the course  
You



book at WHS online.  
can order it in store for around £8.99.



You can support your child by going online and learning with them. Keep your family informed and **ENJOY!** the world of computing and ICT.