

Supporting Your Child Through GCSE Year

Monday 30th September 2024



Key Exam Dates



- Period 6s – Monday 9th September – Friday 18th October
- MFL Speaking Mocks – Monday 14th October – Friday 18th October
- Mock Series 1 – Monday 21st October – Friday 15th November – [timetable here](#)
- Mock 1 Results Assembly – Monday 16th December
- Period 6s – Monday 13th January – Friday 18th October
- Parents Evening 1 – Thursday 9th January
- MFL Speaking Mocks – Monday 3rd March – Friday 7th March
- Mock Series 2 - Monday 10th March – Friday 28th March
- Mock 2 Results Assembly – Wednesday 9th April
- Parents Evening 2 – Thursday 10th April
- Final Exams - Monday 5th May – Friday 27th June – timetable available soon
- Results Day – Thursday 21st August
- We do not do study leave



**it's a marathon
not a sprint**

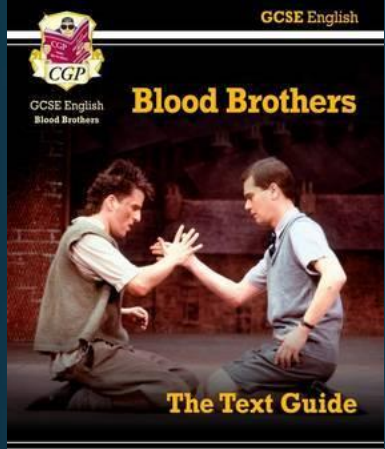
Attendance matters...

Year 11 2023-2024 outcomes		
Attendance	Average Progress	% with a Positive Progress Score
95-100%	Much better than expected (0.5 grade)	74%
90-94%	Mostly as expected (0.1 grade)	51%
80-89%	Lower than expected (0.5 grade)	32%
0-79%	More than 1 grade lower than expected	4%

How to revise for English Language

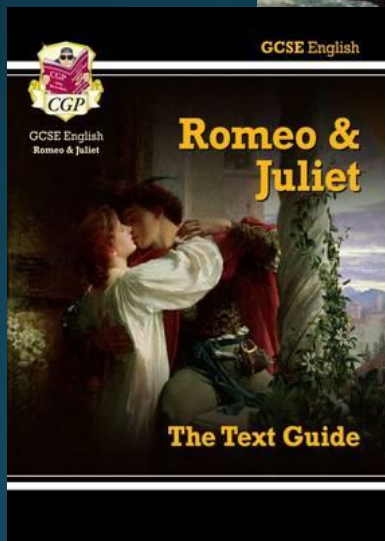
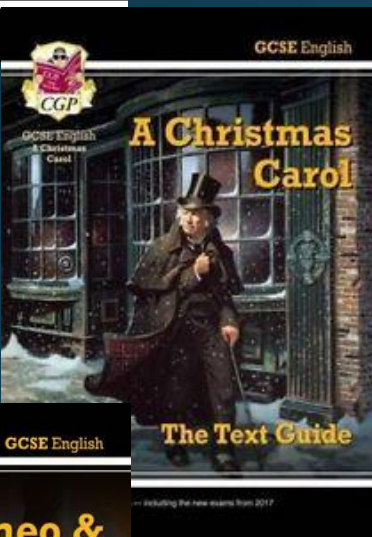
Practice makes perfect!

1. Read as widely and as often as possible – all sorts of texts, from magazines to short stories, from leaflets to letters sent out by businesses or schools. The aim is to know how different forms of written English are constructed.
2. Practise summarising passages. This is a specific and almost scientific skill which, once gained, makes it easily possible to get full marks.
3. Practise turning passages into news reports; this text type has a particular style and structure which is different from any other kind of writing.
4. Practise writing formal letters; Letters to people in official positions, and people they don't know well, typically adopt a formal style and polite tone and they are structured in their sequence – ask your parents if you can do this for them.
5. Redraft answers and creative writing pieces.
6. Focus reading by variety rather than whole texts – develop the reading diet to allow for narrative and descriptive openings to be considered.
7. Review any punctuation marks of which have been tricky in the past.
8. Use the steps and stems booklets alongside the past paper booklets given in lessons to answer as many questions as you can.
9. The more you write the better you will become!



How to revise for English Literature

1. Read and re-read all of the set texts and poems
2. When re-reading the text analyse the vocabulary the writer uses, focusing on figurative or linguistic techniques.
3. Research the social, historical and cultural contexts of the period in which their texts are written (particularly the Conflict Poetry/ Romeo and Juliet/Blood Brothers)
4. Complete wider reading of other texts by the same authors.
5. Re-draft essay responses frequently
6. Test yourself on plot knowledge and themes
7. Practise comparing poems and link poems through shared ideas.
8. Use the revision guides you have been provided with and complete practice papers.
9. English paper society is Thursdays in B110 – you can practise any language or literature essays you like: the teachers are present to mark responses live and give feedback.



Help your child revise Maths (Higher)

Revision guide and
workbook (on weduc)

Paper Society

Thursday in department

Dr Frost Maths

Each pupil has their own
login with questions and
resources

Corbett 5 a day

<http://corbettmaths.com/5-a-day/>

Maths Genie

<https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/gcse.html>

Mathsbot

<https://mathsbot.com/>

Year 11 Maths: May/June 2025

3 x 1hr 30min papers

1 x non-calculator—15th May
2 x calculator—4th & 11th June

BBC Bitesize

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/
bitesize/examspecs/z9p3mnb](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z9p3mnb)

Key Topics to Start Revising

Fractions
Decimals
Percentages
Ratio and Proportion
Algebraic manipulation and solving equations
Averages
Angles
Pythagoras
Trigonometry
Linear graphs, quadratic graphs and cubic
Co-ordinate geometry
Perimeter
Area
Circles
Volume
Accuracy and bounds
Transformations
Construction
Loci
Bearings
Solving quadratic equations
Simultaneous equations
Inequalities
Probability
Proofs
Similarity and congruence
Circle theorems
Cumulative frequency
Box plots
Changing the subject
Vectors
Algebraic fractions
Area under a curve
Using a calculator

How to revise for Maths

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Key Topics to Start Revising

Fractions
Decimals
Percentages
Inequalities
Sequences
Perimeter
Volume
Real life graphs
Transformations
Ratio
Right angled triangles
Probability
Plans and elevations
Constructions
Loci
Bearings
Expanding and factorising brackets
Solving equations
Averages
Graphs and charts
Quadratic Graphs
Indices
Standard form
Similarity and congruence
Vectors
Rearranging equations
Graphs of cubics
Proportion
Indirect proportion
Using a calculator
Trigonometry
Pythagoras

How to Revise for Science

Assessment Objective (AO) 1

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, techniques and procedures.

These are questions where students are expected to recall information such as key definitions and equations.

40% of overall marks.

How to revise for these types of question:

- Flashcards
- Mnemonics
- Active Recall

Assessment Objective (AO) 2

Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, techniques and procedures.

These are questions where students are expected to explain scientific processes and sometime apply their ideas to unfamiliar situations.

40% of overall marks.

How to revise for these types of question:

- Past paper questions
- Kayscience
- Mindmaps

Assessment Objective (AO) 3

Analyse information and ideas to interpret, evaluate, make judgements, draw conclusions and improve experimental procedures.

These are questions where students are expected use their scientific understanding to come up with their own ideas regarding unfamiliar situations.

20% of overall marks.

How to revise for these types of question:

- Past paper questions
- Kayscience
- Reviewing the required practicals.

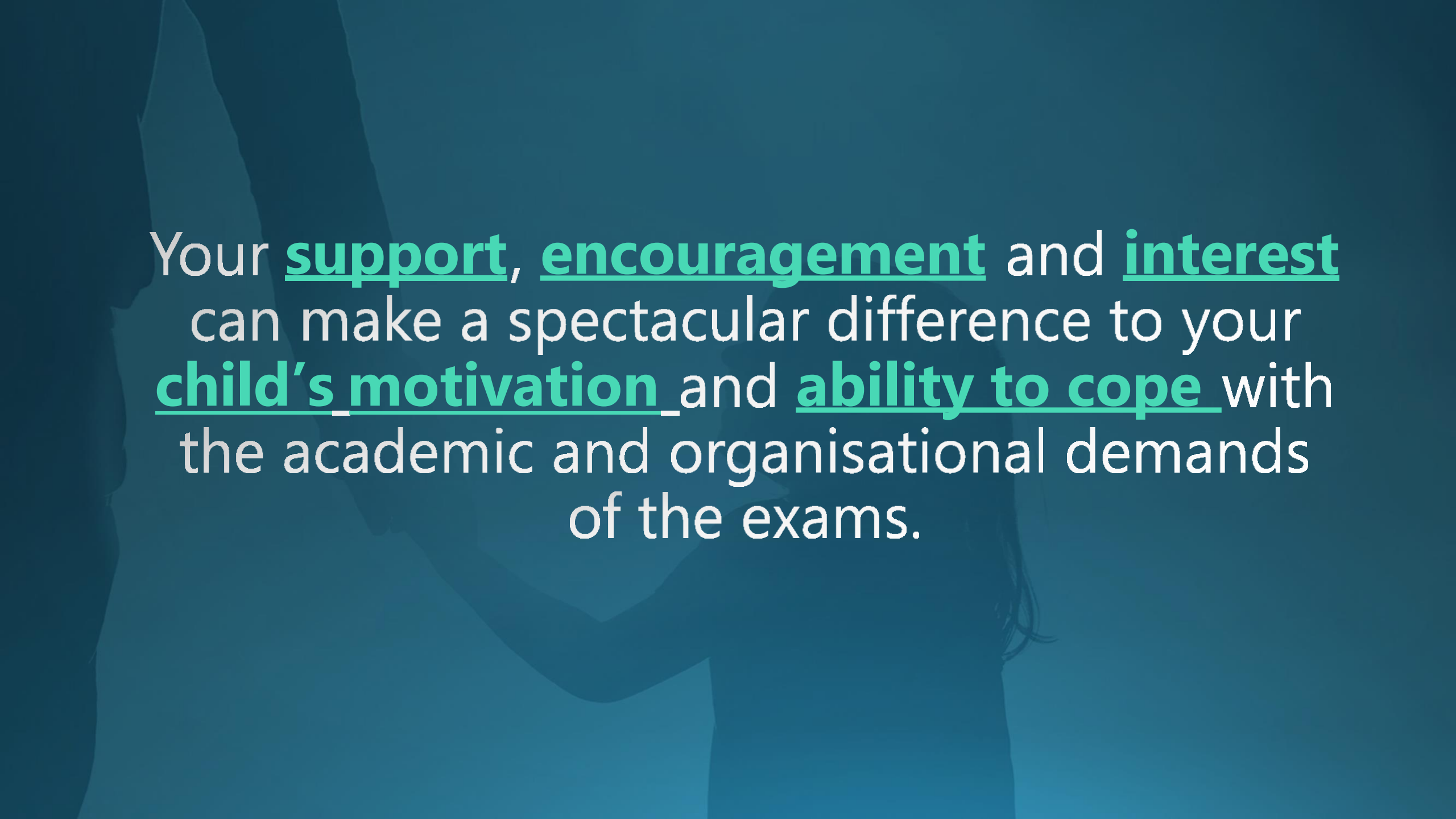
At Barr Beacon School,
most students follow the
AQA Combined Science:
Trilogy (8464)
Specification

But if your child chose to
study triple science, they
follow AQA GCSE Biology,
Chemistry and Physics
Specifications

What can parents do at home ?

- Be positive
- Be the keeper of the calm environment
- Be the provider
- Be the organiser
- Be the questioner
- Be the communicator
- Be the rewarder
- Be the goal setter
- Be the device keeper



A dark blue silhouette of a person holding a child, set against a lighter blue background. The person's arms are raised, supporting the child from underneath. The child's head is visible at the top, and their arms are extended upwards towards the person's hands.

Your support, encouragement and interest can make a spectacular difference to your child's motivation and ability to cope with the academic and organisational demands of the exams.

Exam Stress

- Eating more or less
- Sleeping more or less
- Headaches
- Crying
- Nausea/Butterflies
- Low self-confidence
- Guilty feelings
- Loss of interest

- Tired
- Poor memory and concentration
- Failing to finish tasks
- Irritable and angry
- Feel lonely and isolated
- Hyperactive
- Indecisive
- Fearful of the future



Dealing with Exam Stress

Support them in creating an effective study space.

Plan wellbeing activities into the revision timetable.

Be aware that for the next few months GCSEs will seem like the only important thing in the world.

Control the time spent on revision (30 minute chunks max)

Encourage your child to do some form of exercise.

Talk positively
Bear in mind that hearing about yourself, brothers or sisters have gone through this will not help at this time. It can increase the pressure to live up to expectations.

Avoid offering bribes or presents conditional on high grades.
It is better to encourage for effort or own satisfaction.

Encourage the rest of the family to be considerate.

Be interested in your child's progress and praise success!

Support them in looking after themselves – physically and mentally.

DON'T PANIC!
You are not alone.
Contact school and talk to us if worried.

Revision Strategies

Priority revision timetable

Other Strategies

- Fact sheets
- Flash cards
- Flow charts
- Quizzes
- Past paper questions



Revision Timetable



Week Beginning _____

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning 1							
Break							
Morning 2							
Break							
Afternoon 1							
Break							
Afternoon 2							
Break							
Evening							

eParenting.co.uk

Other Information and Support

- Teachers
- Know target grades and what answers those grades look like
- Revision guides were given out in June of Year 10.
- Barr Beacon Website – Exams Section and Revision Section
- Curriculum Maps on website – outline what students have been studying
- Your past papers
- Online past papers mark schemes from exam boards (AQA, OCR, Edexcel, WJEC)
- Free websites e.g. BBC bitesize
- YouTube
- Weekly assemblies – information and revision strategies
- Form time for revision – need to bring revision with them
- Period 6s
- Core PE
- Study Hall

Exam Boards...

AQA	OCR	Pearson / Edexcel	WJEC (Educas)
• English Language • Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Science • Geography • History • Sociology • Psychology • Religious Studies	• Computer Science • Art (Fine Art) • Art (Textiles) • OCR National Business Studies	• Maths • English Literature • French • German • Physical Education • BTEC Childcare • BTEC Sport • BTEC IT • BTEC Media • BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) • BTEC Performing Arts (Drama) • BTEC Health and Social Care	• Hospitality and Catering

I think my child needs extra help in exams...

- Some pupils may need extra support with examinations - 'access arrangements' (**e.g extra time, rest breaks, reader pens, scribes, quiet room, exams on coloured paper, enlarged font**)
- To qualify for access arrangements in examinations, there must be evidence of the following:
- **Testing by a qualified assessor that demonstrates a need in an area of processing (this is not your GP)**
- **OR**
- **A diagnosis of a medical condition WITH evidence of requiring extra time/rest breaks in examinations from their teachers (normal way of working)**
- For some pupils with a history of anxiety that is above the level of normal examination stress, it may be possible to take examinations in a smaller room or be moved to the 'end row'. *This must be documented as a normal way of working and evidence of difficulties must be available to present to JCQ inspectors.*
- If you think your child may have an undiagnosed need or needs extra support in exams, **please speak to the SENDCO (Mrs C Walker)**. We can then arrange for further investigation which may include speaking to teachers and extra testing to identify any possible areas of need and put the required support in place.
- **These access arrangements must be in place (and used) in mocks**

If the worst happens between now and May....

- Let us know ASAP.
- Ongoing Pastoral Support from Head of House
- Ongoing Support from Safeguarding
- 'Special consideration' from the exam boards