

Supporting Your Child Through GCSE Year

Monday 29th September 2025



Key Exam Dates



- Period 6s – Monday 15th September – Friday 10th October
- MFL Speaking Mocks 1 – Monday 6th October – Friday 10th October
- Mock Series 1 – Monday 13th October – Friday 7th November
- Mock 1 Results Assembly – Thursday 4th December
- Parents Evening 1 – Thursday 4th December
- Period 6s – Monday 13th January – Friday 13th February
- MFL Speaking Mocks 2 – Monday 9th February – Friday 13th February
- Mock Series 2 - Monday 23rd February – Friday 6th March
- Mock 2 Results Assembly – Friday 27th March
- Parents Evening 2 – Thursday 23rd April
- Final Exams – From Friday 1st May – Friday 26th June (see website)
- Results Day – Thursday 20th August

We do not do study leave

A photograph of a person running on a dirt path towards a sunset. The path is flanked by trees and bushes, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm glow. The text "it's a marathon not a sprint" is overlaid in white.

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

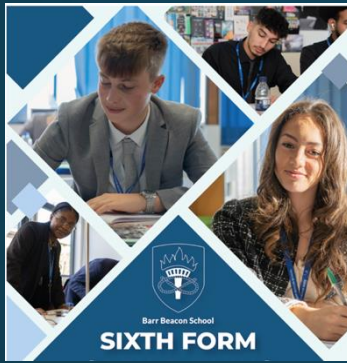


Attendance matters...

2025 (259)		
Attendance	Average Progress	% with a Positive Progress Score
95-100%	+0.56	74%
90-94%	+0.11	51%
80-89%	-0.47	32%
0-79%	-1.09	4%

Considering Next Steps...

- Next Steps Day (Friday 21st November)
- Barr Beacon Sixth Form Open Evening
- Application deadline to Barr Beacon Sixth Form
- Careers Advice from Miss Gillick/Mr Altree (at the back)



Key Dates

Thursday 27th November 2025

Sixth Form Open Evening.

16th January 2026

Deadline for all Sixth Form applications.

February –March 2026

Interviews.

End of April 2026

Conditional offer of a place

Early July 2026

Induction Week

Next Steps Day 2025

Friday 21st November 2025

Barr Beacon Sixth Form Microsoft Form

Follow me for Next Steps Day at Barr Beacon Sixth Form; <https://forms.office.com/e/EF7hJBjY1>

Scan me for Next Steps Day at Barr Beacon Sixth Form.



Sutton Coldfield College Microsoft Form

Follow me for Next Steps Day at Sutton Coldfield College; <https://forms.office.com/e/bWHaa3gLHt>

Scan me for Next Steps Day at Sutton Coldfield College;



James Watt College Microsoft Form

Follow me for Next Steps Day at James Watt College; <https://forms.office.com/e/yy6zxQyzzJ>

Scan me for Next Steps Day at James Watt College;



- Information in letter send via WEDUC
- Pupils choose Sixth Form or BMET College experience.
- Learn more about courses that interest them.

Next Steps Day 2025

What to wear

Barr Beacon Sixth Form	Birmingham Met Colleges
Boys: • Wear a shirt, tie, trousers and shoes. • No Jeans, chinos, jogging bottoms or corduroy trousers. • Your school uniform with a different tie and/or shirt will suffice. • You may wear a suit jacket if you have one but this is not essential. Girls: • Smart trousers or skirts (no shorter than knee length) • Shirts or blouses but they <u>must have a collar</u>. • Shoes. • You may wear a suit jacket if you have one but this is not essential. You are both able to wear your school uniform if you wish.	Both: • Smart casual clothing. This means... • No revealing low cut tops, belly tops or short skirts. • No tracksuit trousers. • No hoodies or sports wear • No tops with offensive or humorous slogans. • No high heeled shoes or sandals. You will be touring around workshops and therefore need safe, sensible footwear. During this tour you are likely to meet the tutor who will decide whether to accept you on a course Consider... What first impression do you want to give?

Next Steps Day 2025

- When exploring subject choices for Sixth Form, it is important to **keep plans for the future in mind. If there is a specific career or university course your child is interested in applying to, then researching the entry requirements** now will help in making those decisions. For example, if you want to study Medicine at university then one of the essential requirements is to take A level Chemistry. The UCAS website offers a comprehensive Search Tool that allows you to explore every UK university course, including their most recent entry requirements. <https://digital.ucas.com/search>
- For a quick idea of which subjects may need to be studied in the Sixth Form, please take a look at the Informed Choices tool from the Russell Group Universities. <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>
- For those who wish to apply to apprenticeships, this is a little more complicated, as opportunities arise as and when companies have them. Creating an account with the National Apprenticeship Service helps to keep you informed. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

English Language and Literature



PHYSICS & MATHS TUTOR

HOME

REVISION COURSES

PAST PAPERS

GCSE / IGCSE

FIND A TUTOR

A-LEVEL

UNI ADMISSIONS

SHOP

TEACHERS' AREA

CONTACT

[Home](#) > English Revision

English Revision

GCSE

AQA

Edexcel

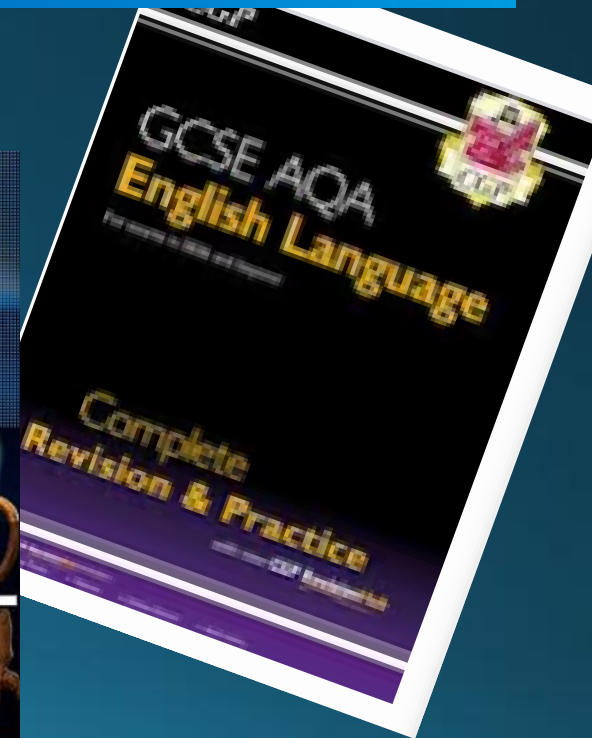
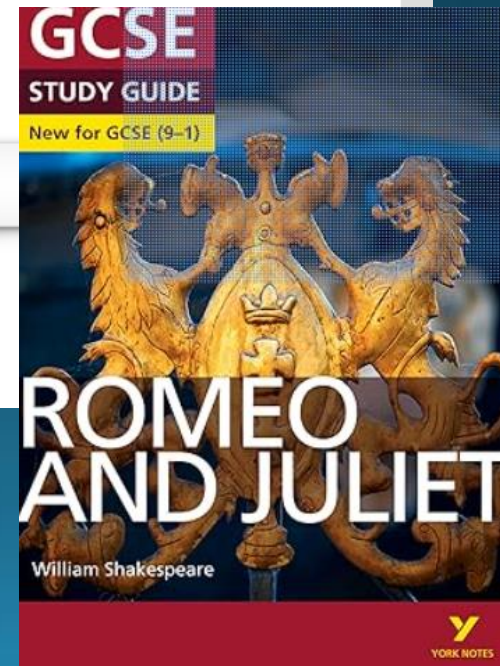
OCR

Edexcel (IGCSE)

Connect with PMT Education!



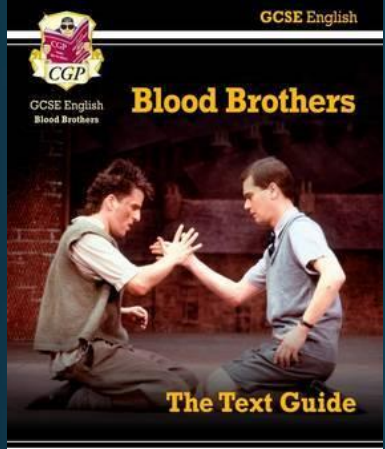
*sparknotes



How to revise for English Language

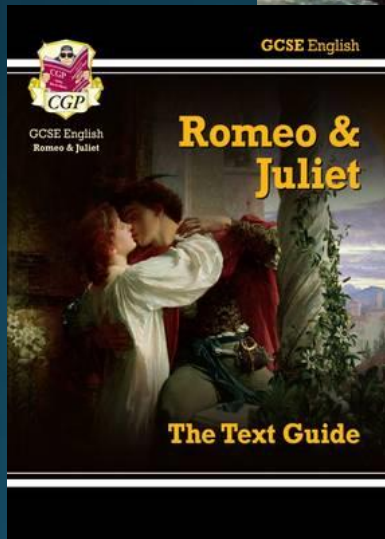
Practise makes perfect!

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 there 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 time 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. Practice 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.



Helping your Child Revise : Maths

Practice... Practice... Practice Exam Q's

PRACTICE IT

Paper Society

Thursday in department to pick up practice papers

Dr Frost Maths

Use your login to access past paper question practice

CHUNK IT

A little bit of maths EVERYDAY at **Corbett**
5 a day :

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

REVIEW IT

Read about it **BBC Bitesize** or your **Revision guide**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z9p3mnb>

Watch it on youtube videos at **Maths Genie** or **Corbett Maths**

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

Or

<https://corbettmaths.com/contents/>

End of Year 11 Maths Dates: May/June 2026

3 x 1hr 30min papers

1 x non-calculator—14th May

2 x calculator—3rd & 10th June

REVISE IT

Key Topics to Revise (BOTH TIERS)

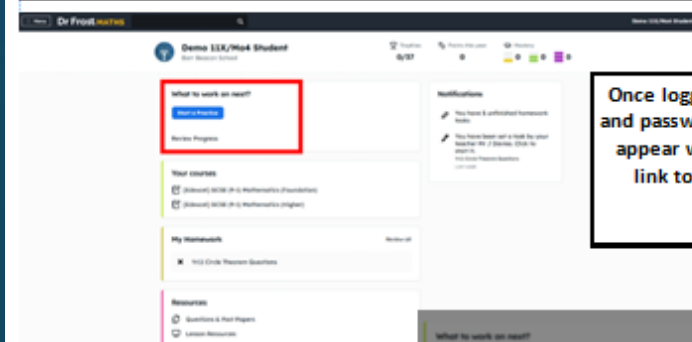
Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
Ratio and Proportion
Algebraic manipulation and solving equations
Averages
Angles
Pythagoras and Trigonometry
Linear graphs
Transformations
Construction
Probability
Using a calculator
Perimeter
Area, Perimeter and Volume
Circles
Perimeter
Plans and elevations
Loci and Bearings
Sequences
Real life graphs
Inequalities
Indices
Standard form
Similarity and congruence
Rearranging equations
Graphs and charts

Key Topics to Revise (HIGHER ONLY)

Linear graphs, quadratic graphs and cubic
Co-ordinate geometry
Accuracy and bounds
Construction
Solving quadratic equations
Simultaneous equations
Probability
Proofs
Similarity and congruence
Circle theorems
Cumulative frequency
Box plots
Changing the subject
Vectors
Algebraic fractions
Area under a curve

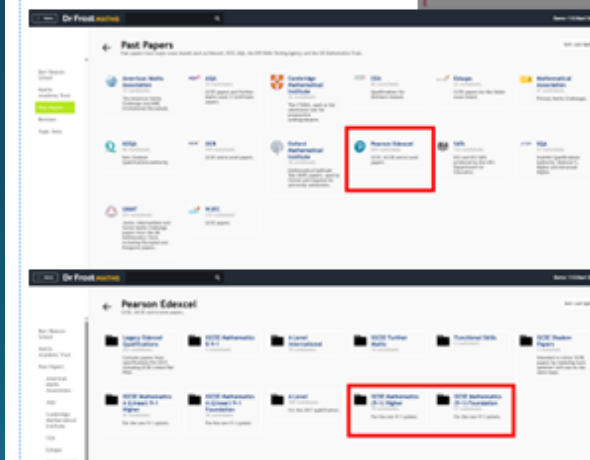
How to revise for Maths

Getting the Most Out of Dr Frost



Once logged on using individual logins and passwords the following screen will appear which as all homework and a link to the course being covered.

Clicking on start a practice will bring up 3 options
By topic (this allows questions from individual topics to be selected)
Past Papers
Cleanup (this provides 4 questions which have been answered incorrectly previously)



When choosing past papers ensure you choose Pearson Edexcel and then the correct tier in the GCSE Mathematics (9-1) option

Maths Exam Equipment Checklist

Pencil
Ruler (15 or 30cm)
Black Pen (and a spare..)
Protractor (180 degrees)
Scientific Calculator
(Recommended are Casio fx 83, fx85 or fx991)

Compass (only bring in on exam days)
Highlighter
Rubber

How to Revise for Science

Barr Beacon School – Science Department – Year 11 Revision Focus

Name:

Science Set: 11X2/Sc

Target Grade: 66

Mock 1 Grade: 44



Biology							Chemistry										Physics						
Paper 1				Paper 2			Paper 1					Paper 2					Paper 1				Paper 2		
B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
99	54		87				54	66	66		99	76					77	87	77	87			

How to choose which topics to focus your revision on:

1. Compare each score in the table above with your target grade.
2. Highlight whichever topics are below your target grade.
3. Prioritise the topics that are the furthest below your target grade.

In order to revise effectively:

- Visit Kayscience and watch the video lessons of topics you need to revise the most.
- Use the flashcard section on Kayscience to practice recall of scientific knowledge of the topics you need to revise the most.
- Use the exam practice section on Kayscience to apply knowledge of the topics you need to revise the most to exam style questions.
- Complete the exam booklets section of Kayscience for the topics that you need to revise the most.
- If you are still struggling, speak to your science teacher or Mr Abraham.

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



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.

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

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.

Allow your children to talk to friends on the phone, social media etc (within reason)

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

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

Support them in looking after themselves – physically and mentally.

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.

BTECs and The Use of Artificial Intelligence

- Completing coursework is an important part of BTEC courses
- Must ensure you are sticking to deadlines
- Must ensure you are referencing any materials you use to help you e.g. websites or books
- Use of AI is not allowed in any form
- Teachers will put your work through **Turn It In**
 - Software that checks your work for similarities against other students and against online and written sources
 - Sanctions will be issued for any plagiarism or AI use, and the work will have to be redone.

You risk having your grade reduced to a U if work with plagiarism or AI use is submitted to the exam board

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**)
- In order 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**

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 Yr 10.
- Curriculum Maps on website – outline what students have been studying
- Your past papers
- Online past papers mark schemes
- Free websites e.g BBC bitesize
- Youtube
- Weekly assemblies – information and revision strategies
- Form time for revision – need to bring revision with them
- P6s
- Core PE
- Study Hall

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

- Ongoing Pastoral Support from Head of House
- Ongoing Support from Safeguarding
- Special consideration

**Advice from those who've done it
more recently...**

Everyone else is in the bistro....