

Helping your child to succeed

15th October 2015



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New GCSEs

Mr Johnson

2015 – a year of change

- New GCSEs in:
 - English (both Language and Literature)
 - Maths
- All other GCSEs remain “unreformed”

2017 – two grading systems

- GCSE results in 2017 will use two grading systems
- English and Maths will be graded 1 – 9
- All other subjects will be graded A* - G

How do the grades compare?



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New GCSE grading structure

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

GOOD PASS (DfE)

5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING

4 and above = bottom of C and above

Reformed GCSEs will be introduced gradually over three years from September 2015. They will be graded from 9 to 1, instead of A* to G. Students taking GCSEs over this period will therefore receive a mixture of 9 to 1 and A* to G grades.



Students will not lose out as a result of the changes. We will use a statistical method (known as comparable outcomes) in 2017 so that:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C and bottom third of a grade B. This has been defined as a good pass by the Department for Education.

How will assessment change?

- In English and Maths:
 - More exams
 - Greater “rigour”
 - Greater emphasis on the ability to recall information

Maths

Mr Reeves

Maths

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Maths: Course Information 2015-2017

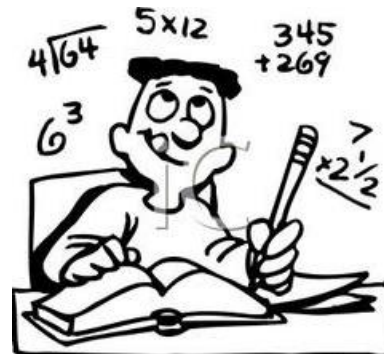
- Exam board – Edexcel
 - 3 exam papers in June 2017
 - 1 non-calculator paper and 2 calculator papers
 - Each exam paper is 1 hour 30 minutes in duration

How can you help?

- Make sure your child uses various websites;
 1. MathsWatch – severnvale, their individual school log-in and 123456
 2. MyMaths – severnvale and polygons
 3. Active Learn – coming soon
 4. Corbett Maths
 5. Maths Genie
- Try to enter into a discussion with them about what they have learnt

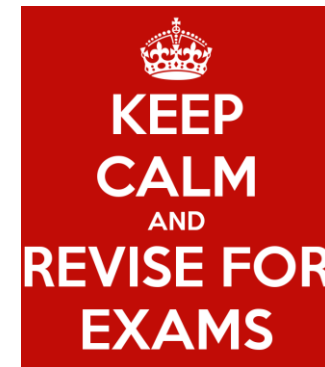
How can you help?

- With the exception of Thursday every week, your child has maths everyday so ask them what they have learnt
- Encourage them to review their work on a weekly basis
- Make sure they attempt their 1 piece of homework per week



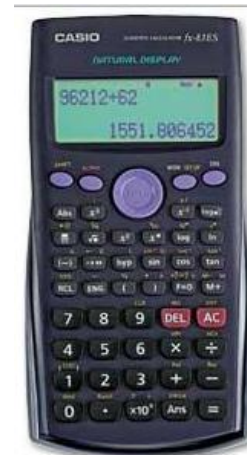
How can you help?

- Help your child revise effectively
- Know that your child is tested regularly in school (every 2/3 weeks) and ask them how they are doing
- Set up a revision timetable
- Purchase a revision guide



How can you help?

- Make sure your child comes to school properly equipped with the following;
 - Basic equipment such as pen, pencil, ruler...
 - A Casio scientific calculator
 - A pair of compasses
 - An angle measurer



Science

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Science: Course Information 2015-2017

- Exam board – AQA
- Double Award
 - Core in Year 10
 - Additional in Year 11
- Triple Science
 - Separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics across the two years.

No external exams in Year 10.

**Controlled assessment
completed in lessons.**

How can you help?

- Encourage use of GCSE Pod to review lesson content.
- Ask your child to tell you about the podcast they have watched.
- Question them on it! Ask them to explain it to you in more detail.



How can you help?

- Learning scientific words.
- Encourage your child to make flashcards with keywords on one side and definitions on the other side.
- Test them regularly.
- Make sure they add new words to their pack as they cover more content in school.

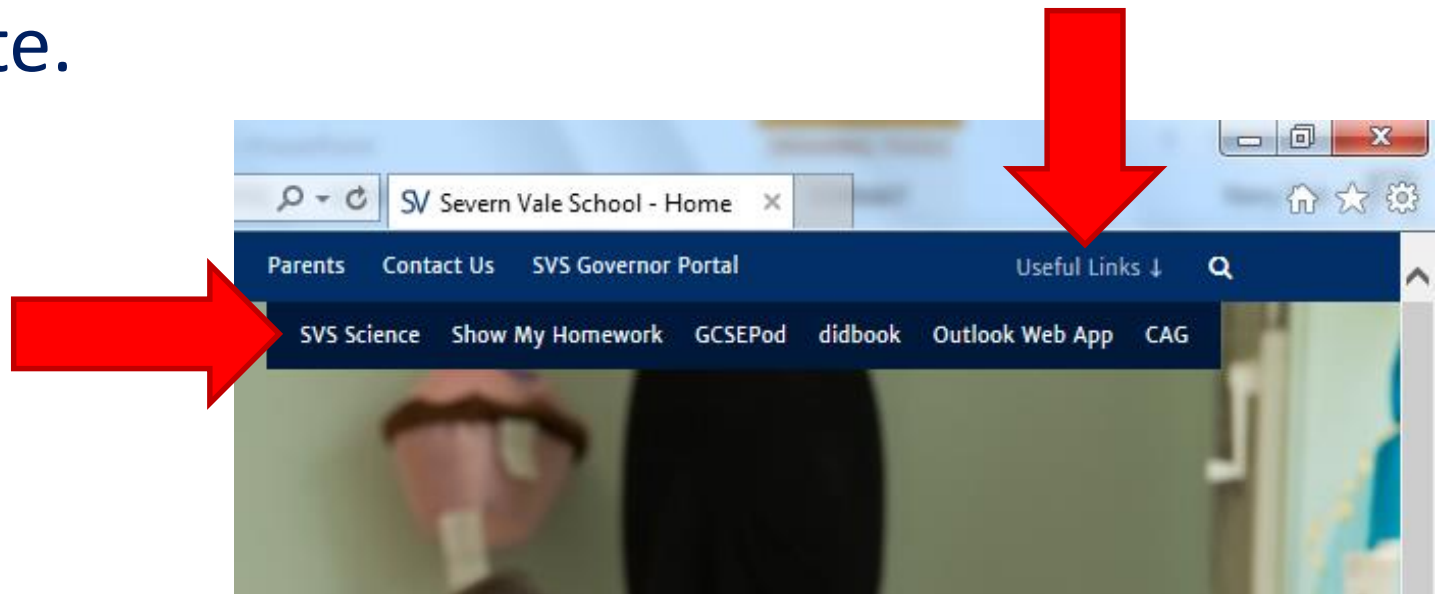


How can you help?

- Distributed revision.
- Set up a revision timetable as soon as possible and support your child in reviewing learning regularly.
- Start after half term. Encourage them to spend short blocks of time reviewing the work completed in Term 1.

How can you help?

- Use the Science Departments revision website.



How can you help?

- Practice exam technique.
- Access past papers on the AQA website.
 - Google search – AQA core science past papers
 - All papers from 2012-2014 available
- Select the Unit 01 papers. Check the cover of the exam paper – look for B1, C1 or P1.
- Encourage your child to complete these kind of papers and questions regularly and to bring them in to show their teacher.

Find past papers and mark schemes - AQA

www.aqa.org.uk/exams.../exams.../find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes ▼

Find past papers and mark schemes for AQA exams, and specimen papers for new courses.

Publishing past papers and ... - Exam materials and stationery - Estimated grades



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RS

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Religious Studies (RS)

Course Information 2015-2017

- Exam board – WJEC
- Course started by students in Year 9

No controlled assessment

No external exams in Year 10

How can you help?

- Encourage students to use Quizlet (app available) or make traditional card flash cards to develop their understanding of key words and their meanings.
- Test your child on the spellings and meanings of key words regularly.
- Monitor SMH to ensure homework is being done.
- Discuss related news items to the course and see if they could tell you a Muslim and Christian view as well as their own opinion. These might include: abortion, death penalty, wearing religious clothing, war.

How can you help?



- Distributed revision.
- Set up a revision timetable as soon as possible and support your child in reviewing learning regularly.
- Encourage the use of mind maps and revision cards (supplied by the department)
- Attending KS4 RS Clinics in RE1 on Tuesdays after-school

How can you help?

- Monitor results in end of module tests
- Practise exam technique.
- Access past papers on the WJEC website.
 - Select Religious Studies B only
- Encourage your child to complete these kind of papers and questions regularly and to bring them in to show their teacher.

Religious Studies B - WJEC

www.wjec.co.uk/.../religious-studies/religious-studies.../religious-studies-... ▼

WJEC GCSE Religious Studies Specification B involves a thematic study of ...

Studies Support · All Religious Studies B GCSE documents; Past papers and ...



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How can you help?

- If they miss a lesson ensure they catch up on the work missed
- Talk to us – if you have any concerns or issues then let us know – sometimes we are the last to know about issues!

English

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English Language: Course Information 2015-2017

- Exam board – AQA
- 100% terminal exams – no Controlled Assessment
- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
 - 4 reading questions about 1 text; 1 piece of creative writing
- Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
 - 4 reading questions about 2 texts; 1 piece of viewpoint writing

English Literature: Course Information

2015-2017

- Exam board – AQA
- 100% terminal exams – no Controlled Assessment
- Closed book exams
- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the C19th Novel
 - 1 question on each text: extract analysis and link to the whole text
- Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry
 - 1 question on the modern text; 1 comparison question on studied poetry; analysis and comparison of unseen poetry

How can you help?


Reading

- Students need to regularly read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts from the C19th, C20th and C21st
- Build reading into the daily routine
- Talk to them about their reading



How can you help?

Knowledge

- Create flashcards / revision cards for each text: plot; characters; methods; key terms
 - Talk to them / question them about the texts
 - Learn the key vocabulary and practise using it in context
- 



How can you help?

Apply the Skills

- Read openings of novels and explore how they are structured to engage the reader
- Pick short extracts from texts and analyse the language used and the effect of it
- Make links and comparisons between different texts – the content and how they are written



How can you help?



Distributed Revision

- All homework is now Independent Study: it is about revising and consolidating knowledge
- These tasks will always be on Show my Homework
- Students need to remember what they do now at the end of Y11

How can you help?



Writing

- Treat all writing as if it is marked for SPAG
- Proof-read and edit all pieces of writing for accuracy
- Encourage students to consider how they write as well as what they write
- Practise writing descriptively to express a viewpoint using the appropriate methods and features

Revision

Mr Wakeford

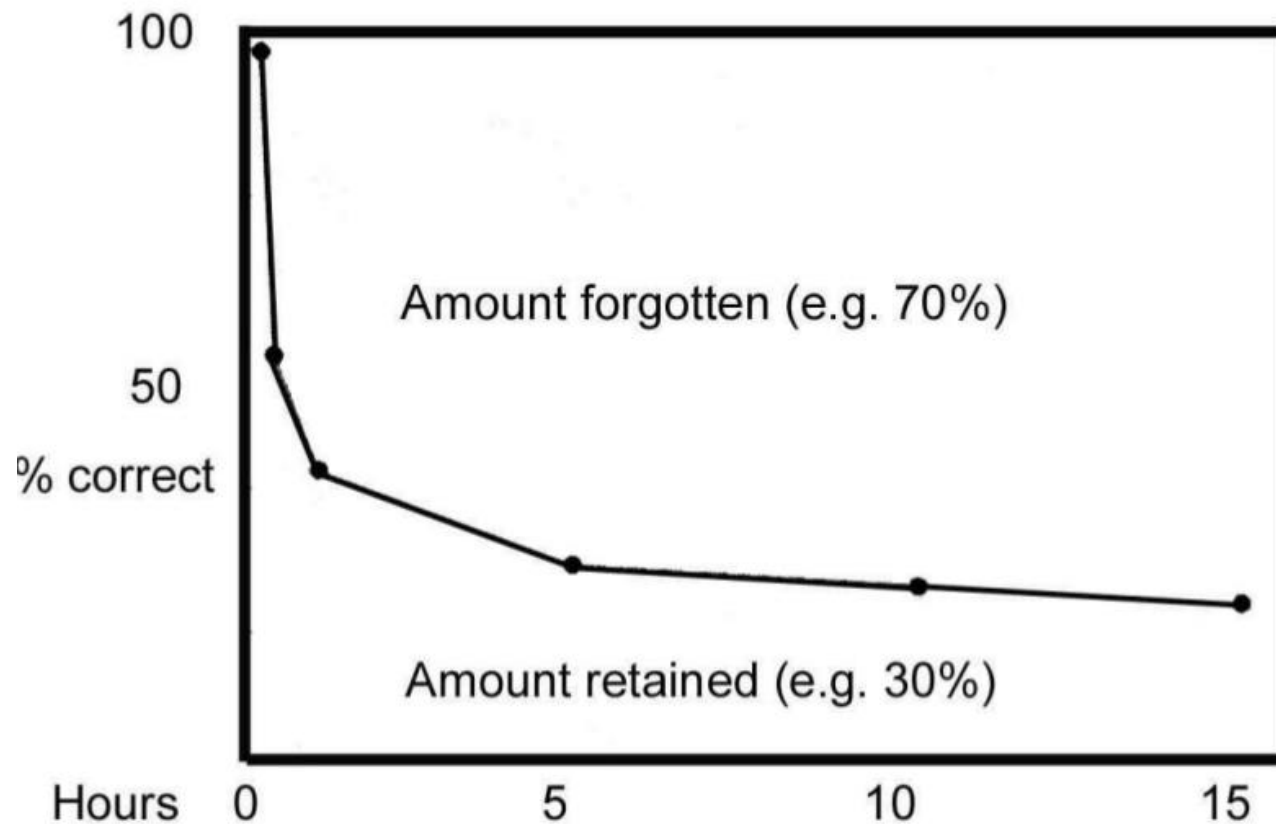


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Space your revision

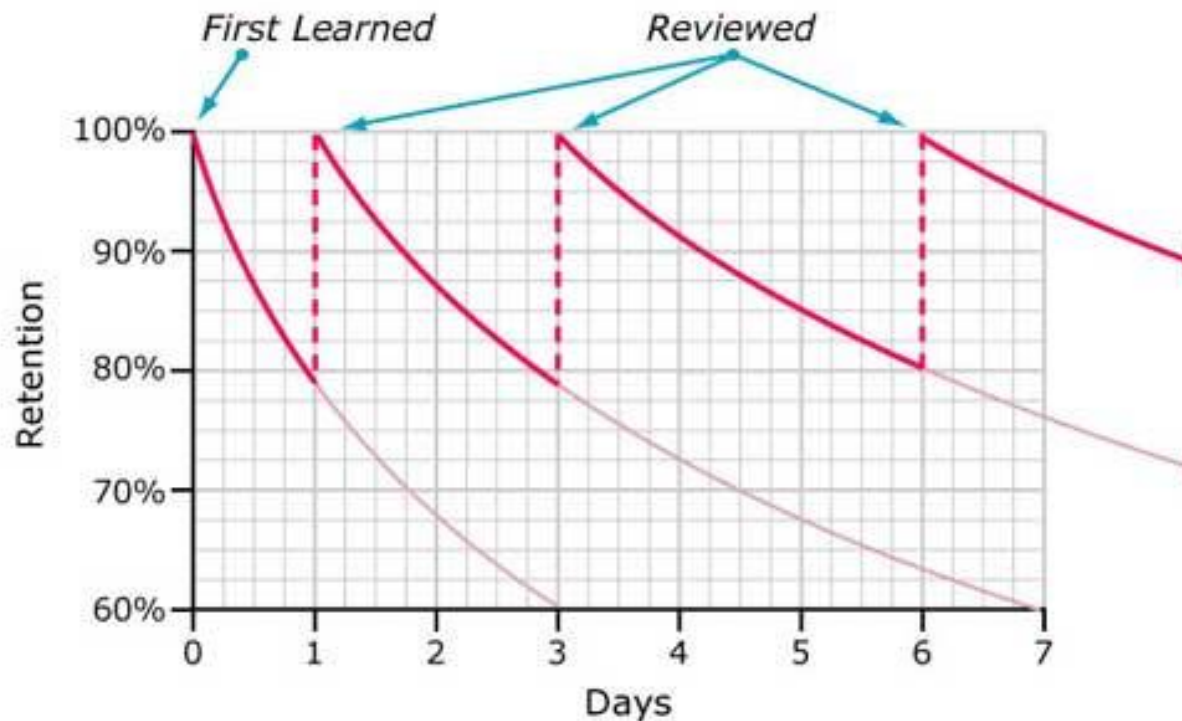
- Analysis shows if you want to study effectively, you should spread out your revision rather than cramming.
- Anything you want to remember must be periodically recalled from memory.

“As learning occurs, so does forgetting...”



Spacing revision arrests the forgetting

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



- That means starting
in Year 10



Self-testing

- Self-testing is a critically important part of the revision process.

Benefits of testing....

1. Retrieval aids later retention
2. Identifies gaps in knowledge
3. Causes students to learn more from the next study episode
4. Produces better organisation of knowledge
5. Improves transfer of knowledge to new contexts

Make sure you fail occasionally

- The moral is clear: invest some time in trying things out, which may mean failing occasionally, if you want to maximise learning in the long run.
- This means trying to learn things we find hard.
- By failing we learn the mistakes to avoid the next time!

Practise the thing you'll be tested on

- The big mistake many students make is not practising the thing they will be tested on.
- If your exam involves writing an essay, you need to practise essay-writing.
- Merely memorising the material is not enough.

Practise the thing you'll be tested on

- Writing exam answers is a skill, just like playing a game is a skill. You wouldn't try and improve at a game by trying to memorise moves, you'd practise making them.
- Research confirms that practising retrieving information is one of the best ways to ensure you remember it.

Structure information, don't try to remember it

- Trying to remember something has been shown to have almost no effect on whether you do remember it.
- The implication for revision is clear: just looking at your notes won't help you learn them.

Structure information, don't try to remember it

- Instead, you need to reorganise the information in some way – whether by making notes of your notes, thinking about how what you're reading relates to other material, or practising writing answers.
- This approach, called "depth of processing", is the way to ensure material gets lodged in your memory.

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 4th to Friday 8th July 2016



An information sheet for students and parents/guardians was given out at the end of Year 9.

Each student should arrange their placement by Fri 12th Dec 2015.
Students have free choice.

This is not another job for parents/carers. General support with research and suggesting organisations to try is very welcome, however, please leave making phone calls, writing emails or letters etc. to your child. This helps build confidence and take ownership of the placement.



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Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 4th to Friday 8th July 2016



Once a placement is agreed verbally, the Agreement Form can be collected from the Careers Office. This must be completed and returned to school by Fri 20th March 2016, as we cannot arrange Health and Safety checks after this date.

Further support can be requested from the Careers Office, which is open to all students at any non-lesson time.