

Helping your child to succeed

5th October 2017



Severn Vale School
An Academy

Welcome

Mrs Prescott – Deputy Headteacher
(Teaching, Learning and Assessment)



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AIMS

- To raise awareness of the “new” GCSE examinations
- To outline the content and expectations of the core GCSE subjects – Maths, English and Science
- To start thinking about what effective revision looks like
- To outline how your child will be supported in regards to Post-16 choices and careers guidance at KS4

“New” GCSEs

Mr Johnson - Headteacher



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2019 – a year of change

- From 2017, Students began to sit the new style GCSEs in:
 - English (both Language and Literature)
 - Maths
- All other GCSEs have now been reformed and the “Class of 2019” will be the first year group to take a whole suite of GCSEs under the new 9-1 system

How do the grades compare?

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

How did Severn Vale do?

In 2017:

- over 66% of our students achieved 4+ grades in English and Maths
- 23% of grades achieved were A* - As or the new 9 – 7 grades
- 45% of grades achieved were A* - B
- 28% of students achieved 3 or more A* - A grades
- 16% achieved 5 or more A* - A grades
- Our students achieved the coveted grade 9s in English Lang, Lit and Maths
- On many measures we are the top-performing comprehensive school in Gloucester City



Maths

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Maths: Course Information 2017-2019

- Exam board – Edexcel
- GCSE Maths has changed and is now more demanding for everyone
- 2 tiers of entry – Higher or Foundation
- Grades 9 – 4 available at Higher tier
- Grades 5 – 1 available at Foundation tier
- Grade 4 = standard pass
- Grade 5 = good pass

Maths: Course Information 2017-2019

- 3 exam papers, each lasting 1 hour 30 minutes (80 marks in each paper = maximum 240 marks in total)
- Paper 1 is non calculator and Papers 2 and 3 are calculator papers
- Fewer marks at the lower grades and more marks at the higher grades at both Foundation and Higher Tier
- Greater emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning, with more marks now being allocated to these higher-order skills
- Students will be required to memorise formulae

How can you help?

- Make sure your child attempts all their homework – tasks on Show My Homework
- Purchase a revision guide and workbook (letters to go home very soon)
- Talk to your child about what they are studying in maths, ask to see their book and Unit tests
- Make sure they are fully equipped every lesson with the basic equipment plus scientific calculator, protractor and a pair of compasses
- Insist they login and use the maths revision websites on a daily/weekly basis

Maths websites

MathsWatch (videos and questions)

Address: vle.mathswatch.com

Username: school email

Password: radius

Pearson ActiveLearn (questions)

Address: www.pearsonactivelearn.com

Username: school email

Password: 1234567A

MethodMaths (practice GCSE papers)

Address: www.methodmaths.com

Username: school log in

Password: 123456

Corbett Maths (videos and questions)

Address: Corbettmaths.com



To summarise:

- The maths GCSE is a lot harder now
- New content has been added to both tiers to ensure they stretch and challenge all students
- Overlapping questions on both tiers (grade 4 and 5 questions)
- Dialogue is key – between parent and child and parent and school
- Attendance and thorough revision is crucial to success

English

Miss Cooksley – Head of English

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English Language: Course Information 2017-2019

- 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

2017-2019

- 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?



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 or viewpoint 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

Science

Mrs Madrick – Head of Science

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Combined Science: Synergy

- Double award – two grades
- Classes taught by two teachers

New grading system
9-1

- Strand 1 – Life and Environmental Sciences
- Strand 2 – Physical Sciences

- 4 exams at the end of Year 11 (1 hour, 45 minutes each)
- Paper 1 and 2 – Life and Environmental Sciences
- Paper 3 and 4 – Physical Sciences



Triple Science

- Separate grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Two exams per subject at the end of Year 11 (1 hour and 45 minutes each)

New grading system
9-1

Required Practicals

- No coursework, 100% exam
- Specific practicals identified by the exam board
- Practical skills assessed through the final exams with questions based on the required practicals
- **Good attendance** is vital so that required practicals are not missed

How can you help your child?

- **Students should be reviewing their learning regularly.**
 - Ask them what they have been learning.
 - Encourage them to spend time completing exam preparation (revision).
- *It is essential that they keep going back to previous work and not just focus on current topics. We will mirror this in the tests we give them.*
- GCSEpod has a range of pod casts which are aligned with the new course.
 - Go to Science and select Biology, Chemistry or Physics for Triple Science or Combined Science.
- my-gcsescience.com is very useful website but is expensive.

How can you help your child?

- There are 21 equations that students are expected to **KNOW** as they will not be given them in the exam.
- They are also expected to be able to **rearrange** them.
- All classes will be tested on their knowledge of the equations regularly.
- *Please encourage students to learn them as they would a list of spellings, and practise rearranging them.*

How can you help your child?

- Science Drop-In runs every Thursday from 3.15pm in Lab 6.
- Please remind your child to come along and ask for help.
- They need to bring their own work, questions and should know what they want help with.
- They can stay for as long or as little time as they need.

How can you help your child?

- There are currently no revision guides available for our Combined Science course, however we are looking at what is available...more information to follow in the New Year.
- We have produced “Preparation” booklets for the course containing:
 - Learning checklists for every unit.
 - Summary of Maths skills covered in the course.
 - Equation lists
 - Summary of all the Required Practicals
- Encourage your child to refer to this booklet when they complete exam preparation at home.



How can you help your child?

- Support us with our high expectations.
- We may ask students to re-do work or retake mock exams if we feel they have not put in their best effort.
- *This is because we firmly believe that every child has the potential to achieve great things.*

How can you help your child?

- Scientific calculators are required for Science lessons and in the final exams.
- There is an increased focus on Maths skills in Science and students need to be able to practice using a scientific calculator in lessons ahead of the exams.
- 15% of the Combined Science exam
Maths skills
- 10% in Biology
- 20% in Chemistry
- 30% in Physics



Revision

Mr Horton – Deputy Head
(Attainment & Achievement)

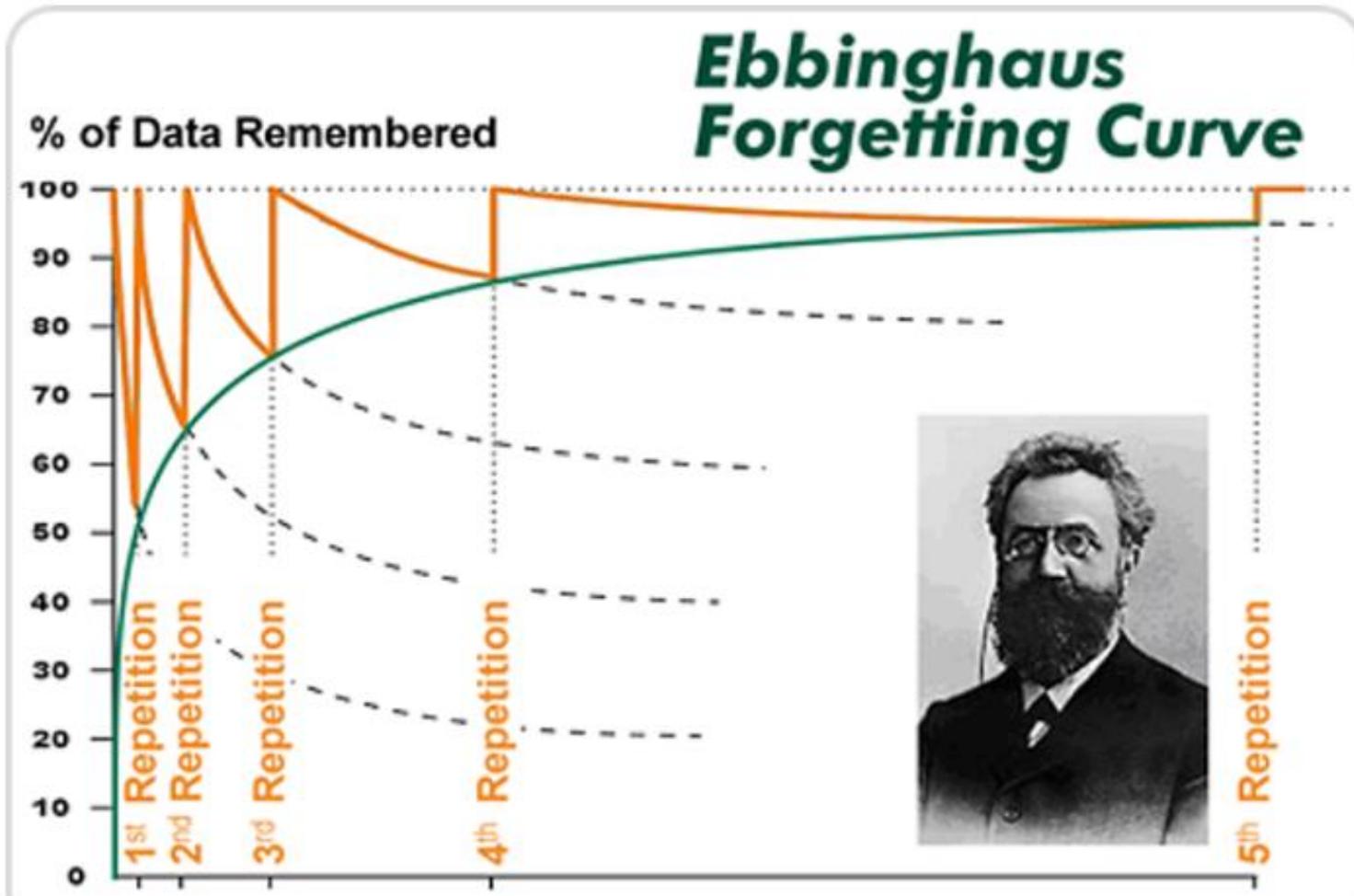
shorton@severnvaleschool.com



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.**

Spacing revision arrests the forgetting





1. Identity & Culture	2. Socialisation & Social Control	3. The socialisation process	4. Super Knowledge Test 1	5. Agents of Socialisation	6. Super Knowledge Test 2	7. Research Methods	Paper 1 Section A	8. Identity & Culture	9. Inequality Basics	10. Super Knowledge Test 3	11. Socialisation & Social Control
76	68	66		67	52	67	58	96	50	60	82
57	50	40	58	52	53	72	63	68		63	62
98	100	96	100	100	96	100	92	100	92	100	96

That means starting
in Year 10

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Technique 1: Self-testing

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

- Use lists of key words from each subject to make **flash cards** – use these to test yourself
- **Write questions** on the topics you have studied each week. Regularly see if you can answer the questions, **mixing up the topics** to ensure spacing

Status

Achieved
Ascribed

← **FRONT**

BACK →

Status = The amount of respect others give to you
Achieved = earned status
Ascribed = status allocated at birth



Quick Questions

1. Name someone with achieved status
2. Name someone with ascribed status

Technique 2: Practise

- 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**, if it involves **calculations using formulae**, you need to **practise these!**
- Merely memorising the material is not enough

Controlled Assessment

- There are still a number of subjects which have a controlled assessment (coursework) element including:
 - Art
 - DT
 - Health and Social Care
- It is vital that students studying these subjects understand how important it is that work set which contributes to the controlled assessment must be given **full attention** and **complete on time**

How can parents help?

- **Regularly testing** your child on what they are learning at school – many subjects provide “**knowledge organisers**” to assist with this
- Make sure that your child turns in the “**best version**” of their work. Have they checked for mistakes? Does anything need rewriting? This **checking and editing** process is crucial when preparing for examinations
- Simply talk to your child about what they are doing at school!

Careers and Post-16 support

Mr Wakeford – Deputy Head
(Behaviour & Attendance)

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The plan!

- By the time your child leaves Severn Vale in June 2019, we want them to have a robust Post 16 plan
 - Options are vast and include
 - Apprenticeship
 - Training Centre or College
 - School or College Sixth Form
 - Volunteering or Employment with training
- We want our students to know what to do if things
- don't go as expected, including a back up plan – in fact plan A, B and C!

Flexible Learning Days

FLD 1 is on 30th November

- Year 10 will be taking part in a day of revision activities including:
 - Working with a independent expert on memory and revision
 - Considering careers paths
 - Considering personal well being during Years 10 and 11
 - A workshop on practical revision strategies

Flexible Learning Days

FLD 2 is on 19th January

- Year 10 will be taking part in a day of activities to help them prepare for the world of work including:
 - Coming to school in “business wear” and learn about presentation at interview
 - Write a first application letter and first CV
 - Learn about soft skills, and the attitudes employers value
 - Take part in an interview with a volunteer from the business community

Careers Support

Post 16 Choices:

- Dates of post-16 providers open evenings have been given to students / will be e-mailed home
- Many providers only hold one event a year – it's worth considering these this year rather than waiting until Year 11

Work Experience

Monday 2nd to Friday 6th July 2018

Guidance was distributed at the start of Year 10
Students should be well on their way to
organising a placement

Support your child, but don't be tempted to do
this task for them!

Deadline for gaining a placement is Wednesday
20th December (last day of Term 2)

All paperwork must be completed by Easter

