Year 11 INFORMATION BOOKLET

St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy

AND SUBJECT GUIDE

This booklet is designed to help support you and your child in making the most of what has been learnt so far and explain what will be happening as we progress through year 11. A lot of the information here is directed at our students, but we hope that you will use the guide together to help them fulfil their potential.

Inside, you'll find advice on preparing for exams—both mentally and physically—as well as tips on effective revision strategies. In addition, each subject section includes key information about the course and links to subject-specific websites for further support. This document will be emailed to you later this evening so you can access the links.

Mock Exams:

Monday 16th November – Friday 4th December 2026

This guide has been created to help you prepare and revise for your November/December mock exams. It is designed to support you in the lead-up to the mocks and to help you develop effective habits and strategies that will benefit you in your final exams in May/June 2026.

The idea is that you use a range of different revision techniques to discover which ones you prefer, and which work best for different subjects. Some of you may already feel confident about the strategies that suit you, while others might realise, they need to spend more time on revision to succeed. Regardless of how well you perform in each exam, these are not your final exams. The most important thing is to use these mock exams as a learning experience. They offer an excellent early opportunity to identify what you know and what you need to work on, so you can improve both your study habits and your subject knowledge.

Preparing for and completing mock exams to the best of your ability is one of the most important ways you can prepare for exam success in 2026. Mocks are useful because:

- You are exposed to exams in real exam conditions
- You will better understand your strengths and knowledge gaps in each subject and how best to close those gaps through revision
- The feedback activities (in lessons) which follow the mocks will help you to improve in each subject.
- You will receive your results on a mock results day, **Thursday 14th January.**

MOCK EXAM FAQS



Q. Where will I be doing my exams?

For most students, exams will take place in the Presentation Centre. Some students with may sit their exams in an alternative venue, such as the Drama Studio. These students will be notified accordingly.

Q. What do 'exam conditions' mean?

Exam conditions mean that:

- You must comply with JCQ regulations; these are available to read on the school website.
- You must remain silent at all times - on entry to the exam room, during the exam, and while your paper is collected at the end of the exam.
- You must not make any form of contact with another student. This includes turning around in your seat or signalling to anyone.
- If you require assistance, raise your hand. An invigilator will come over and speak with you quietly.

Q. Why are exam conditions important for my mocks?

Exam conditions during your mocks give you the chance to rehearse for the real thing. Make the most of this opportunity by following the rules outlined above as strictly as possible. Another important reason to stick to these conditions is to ensure that everyone in Year 11 has a fair chance to perform at their best - free from distractions or interruptions.

Q. What equipment do I need?

- You must have a **clear pencil case,** with has in it a black pen (biro, not gel pens), pencil, ruler, rubber and highlighter.
- Additional equipment will be needed for maths exams e.g. protractor and compass
- You may bring in a calculator **only** for the exams where you need to use one. You **cannot** take the lid of your calculator into the exam venue.
- Water bottles must be see-through/clear **without** a label and have a **sports cap.**

Q. What isn't allowed?

Mobile phones and **watches (of any kind)** are not allowed. They must be switched off and placed in your bag. You may choose not to bring your watch on the day of an exam.

It is considered malpractice to bring a watch or mobile phone into the exam hall. If this occurred during a real exam, you could be disqualified.

Q. What if I need to go to the toilet during an exam?

Go to the toilet during break and lunchtime or before the line up to enter the exam hall. You will not be allowed out to the toilet, unless you have a known medical need/card. Leaving the room during an exam disturbs your own focus and concentration and will disturb the entire room and disrupt the focus of others. Make sure you go before you enter the exam hall and then you do not need to worry.



ADVICE: LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF DURING EXAMS

Looking after your wellbeing is an essential part of preparing for exams. In school, staff are here to support you. There's plenty of helpful advice available to guide you in eating well, sleeping better, staying focused, and finding time to relax

Dealing with Exam Stress and Anxiety

Everyone feels stressed during exams, and often that stress can motivate us to revise a little more, listen more carefully in lessons, and work a bit harder. However, too much pressure and anxiety can affect your ability to concentrate and perform at your best.

Try to reduce anxiety where you can—it uses up valuable working memory. This is where mock exams can really help: they give you the chance to practise with real test papers under exam conditions and get used to the exam environment.

You can also lean on your family and friends, talk to your teachers about what might help, create a revision timetable, and build healthy habits around sleep, nutrition, and staying active.

Get plenty of sleep!

There's evidence that suggests students who sleep for at least 7 hours a night do 10% better on average than those who get less sleep.

- Good sleep will improve thinking and concentration so try and get between 8 and 10 hours' sleep a night.
- Allow half an hour or so to wind down between studying, looking at a screen and going to bed.
- Cramming all night before an exam is usually a bad idea - sleep is much better for you than a few hours of panicky last-minute study, so set yourself a time for bed.

Make sure you eat and drink!

- Research shows that students who eat breakfast perform better in exams
- A balanced diet is vital for your health, and can help you to feel well during exam periods
- Too many high-fat, high-sugar and high-caffeine foods and drinks (like cola, sweets, chocolate, crisps, burger & chips) can make you hyperactive, irritable and moody
- At night, try to avoid eating three hours before sleep
- The best way to help concentration is to keep hydrated, as even mild dehydration can lead to tiredness, headaches, reduced alertness and concentration.

Put away your mobile phone when studying

We know that smartphones are brilliant 'distraction devices'. Research also shows that using mobile phones – even as a short break from studying - can be mentally draining and reduce performance, as they pull your attention in many different directions. So, when you're not using a revision app, keep your mind recharged and ready to learn by putting away your mobile phone while preparing for exams.

ADVICE: HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP WITH INDEPENDENT STUDY

- **Give plenty of praise and encouragement -** It has been suggested that writing your child a letter describing what their hard-work and effort means to you can be very powerful
- **Create the right environment for study -** Ideally, this would be quiet, well-lit and free from interruptions. They also need plenty of paper, cue-cards, pens, highlighters etc.
- **Make sure they have a balanced diet -** including plenty of water
- Support your child with the **preparation of a revision timetable/schedule.** An example Revision Planner template has been provided in this guide
- **Be a revision buddy! -** Help your child to track their progress through their revision timetable/schedule. What tasks have been completed? What is there still to do?
- **Be prepared to listen -** Students can often become more emotional during this period and need someone to listen to their anxieties
- **Encourage exercise -** Exercise can help boost energy levels, clear the mind and relieve stress. It does not matter what it is – walking, cycling, swimming, football and dancing are all effective



TRY TO AVOID:

- Focusing on grades. Instead, praise for the effort put into preparation rather than results obtained. How hard they try is the part of this process which students have most control over
- Constantly mentioning the exams and piling the pressure on (i.e. avoid nagging)
- Making comparisons with siblings, cousins, friends etc. This is never productive
- Worrying if some of their revision approaches seem unfamiliar or different to when you were at school
- Expecting them to study all of the time. Taking breaks and some time to relax will have an overall positive effect on their ability to revise effectively.

ADVICE: The day of the exam

- **Get a good night's sleep**
  While it may be tempting to stay up half the night cramming in more facts and figures, research shows that this approach is often counterproductive. In the context of a two-year course, one extra night of studying is unlikely to make a significant difference to your overall knowledge. However, having a mind that is refreshed, alert, and ready to respond to challenges will be far more beneficial.



- **Arrive in plenty of time**: To perform at your best, it's important to feel calm and in control. That's hard to achieve if you've skipped breakfast and are stuck in traffic or standing on a crowded train as the exam start time approaches. Aim to arrive early enough to give yourself around 15 minutes of quiet time to mentally rehearse your exam and go over your game plan one last time.
- **Have your equipment ready**: Each exam has its own requirements. In addition to working pens, pencils, and rulers, you may need a calculator for Maths or Science exams, or drawing pencils for diagrams in certain subjects. A lot of nervous energy can be wasted on last-minute stress if these items aren't checked and packed in advance.
- That said, **don't panic if you forget something**—just speak to a member of staff before you enter the exam room. They'll do their best to help you get what you need so you can focus on doing your best.



Think positive

On the day of the exam, focus on what you've achieved—the topics you know well, the revision you've completed, the past exam questions you've practised, and the good grades you've earned. Avoid dwelling on areas of uncertainty. Believing in yourself will give you the confidence to trust your judgement in the exam hall and hit the target.

- **Maintain your focus**
  Exam days can be filled with tension, drama, and nervous energy. It's important to strike a balance between staying focused and interacting normally with your friends and classmates. Try finding a quiet spot away from the crowd to mentally 'warm up' before each exam and 'wind down' afterwards. Surround yourself with people who help you stay calm, rather than add to the noise.
- **Beware of post-exam analysis**
  Often, students leave the exam and immediately start discussing the answers they gave. Try to avoid these conversations, as hearing that others got different answers can leave you feeling confused or discouraged. You can't change what's already happened—your energy is better spent focusing on what's ahead. Staying present will help you prepare more effectively for your next exam.

RESOURCES: HAVE YOU GOT WHAT YOU NEED?

Preparing for your mock exams, it's crucial that you have the materials you need.

Here is a handy checklist!

☐ **Revision guides/study aids for the subjects that you are studying.** The notes in your exercise books will be useful, but for a complete set of notes (alongside questions, model answers etc.) any revision resources that have been given to you or suggested by each subject. These can be purchased on Arbor.

☐ **Online resources/apps.** Do you have your login details handy? If not, then check with your teachers.

☐ **Materials for note-making/flashcards.** Pens (black ink), pencils, highlighters, post- it notes, flashcards.

☐ **Materials for maths/science.** A scientific calculator (which you have practiced using before the exam!), a compass and a protractor.

☐ **A plan.** Do you have a plan for tackling your gaps in different subjects? **Use the Revision**

GUIDANCE: REVISION - WHAT WORKS?

To be effective, **revision must be active, it must cause you to 'think hard'.** Passively reading through notes or flicking through a revision guide is a very poor form of revision. Active revision leads to more chance of committing information and learning to your long-term memory.

Students are most successful when they use a revision timetable (**see the revision planner at the end of this booklet)** because it allows you to plan your time more effectively and ensure that you are splitting your time across your subjects, as well as making sure that the right subject is tackled at the right time (particularly in relation to the mock exam timetable). In addition:

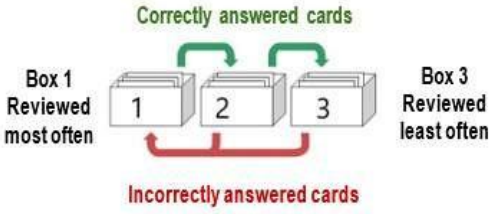
- **You should aim for 25–35-minute bursts of revision, with 5-10 minute breaks in between** (going for a walk can be the most effective type of break).
- **Identify and tackle your knowledge gaps** - don't just revise the topic you enjoy or are better at. It is tempting to do so, but you need to prioritise the areas you know you would struggle with in an exam.

The following pages describe some of the ways in which you might improve the effectiveness of your revision. They summarise some of the methods that the Learning Scientists recommend. The Learning Scientists are a group of scientific researchers in cognitive science who have focused on how students best learn and revise. Their website explains why these approaches are so successful and has downloadable resources for more information and guidance.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR
REVISION ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL

1. Using flashcards

There are different ways to create and use flashcards to target your knowledge gaps. You could simply record a keyword, definition or idea on each card. You could use both sides of the card: question on one side, answer on other.



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Many students find they can recall information more effectively when their flashcards include colour and images. Self-testing with flashcards is a proven and highly effective method for exam preparation. Incorporating the Leitner system (explained below) is a powerful way to supercharge your revision and accelerate learning.

Leitner System: It is based on spaced repletion and the principle of reviewing information at increased intervals to improve long-term retention.
Get hold of three small boxes or envelopes. Sort the class cards into different boxes based on how well you know each one.

Box 1: Cards you struggle with — reviewed daily.
Box 2: Cards you know a bit better — reviewed every few days.
Box 3: Cards you know well — reviewed weekly or less often.

Quiz yourself on your flashcards. If you recall the information on the flashcard, put it in box 2. If you don't recall, put the card in box 1.

2. Making summary notes

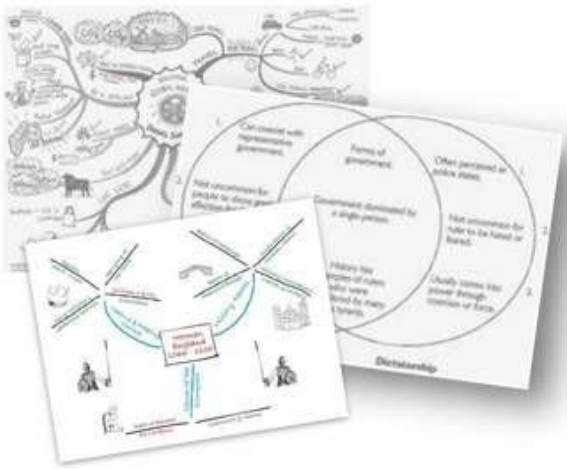


Once you've identified your gaps, try transforming the notes you already have—from your revision guide, exercise book, websites, or other resources. Don't fall into the trap of copying out large chunks of text; instead, convert the information into short paragraphs, bullet points, lists, or pictures.

This process helps you memorise the material by encouraging deeper thinking. Many students find it helpful to summarise their notes onto Post-it notes and display them somewhere they'll see regularly. These notes can also be used later to test your memory and reinforce learning.

3. Visual Organisers **(Mind maps, Spider diagrams, Venn diagrams etc.)**

Most students find graphic organisers to be a memorable and effective way to structure ideas visually. Different types of organisers support different revision goals—for example:



- **Chain diagrams** help with memorising sequences or processes.
- **Spider diagrams** are useful for exploring how much you remember about a particular topic.
- **Venn diagrams** allow you to compare and contrast two ideas.
- **T-charts** are great for organising pros and cons.

4. Memorising! Read - Recite - Review

A significant part of exam success is memory work—what can you recall? There are many memory techniques you can try. One approach that works well for many students is **the Read–Recite–Review** method:

1. **Read** your notes on a particular topic.
2. **Recite** as much as you can from memory. You could record yourself on your phone, then re-read your notes to check accuracy.
3. **Review** by getting someone to test you or by answering questions on the topic (use your revision guide or past papers).

Testing yourself straight away boosts your ability to remember the material later.

5. Question Practice (Past papers etc.)

Answering past exam questions (and marking/correcting your answers, if possible) is another effective way to prepare for exams. This is because it helps you to figure out where your gaps are, giving you the opportunity to do something about them. Most revision guides have tests, quizzes and exam-style questions (often with model answers alongside).

It can also be just as effective to carefully plan answers to longer/high mark questions in subjects where you write more extended answers (for example, English Literature, History, Drama etc.). Planning is as effective a revision task as actually completing practise questions in full.

When using past papers, make sure you have papers from the correct exam board. You can find all the information about individual subject exam boards in the ‘Subject Help and Advice’ section.

THE DO'S AND DONT'S OF EFFECTIVE REVISION

Each year, we gather feedback from students who've completed their GCSEs. Their insights offer valuable lessons on how to approach revision and exam season effectively. Here are some of the most common reflections:

1. **"I wish I had started earlier and not left it too late."**
   Starting revision early helps reduce stress and gives you time to revisit tricky topics.
2. **"I wish I had started making flashcards at the start of Year 11."**
   Building revision resources gradually makes it easier to revise later and saves time during exam season.
3. **"Don't revise for one exam at a time."**
   Some weeks you'll have 5 or 6 GCSE exams. If you only focus on one subject at a time, you may find yourself unprepared for others
4. **"I didn't revise the subjects I struggled with."**
   It's tempting to focus on your favourites, but every subject counts. Spread your time fairly.

DO

- Revise for your mock exams
- Revise in 25-30 minutes sessions and take regular short breaks.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Eat well and stay hydrated.
- Make time for yourself—plan fun and relaxing activities alongside your revision.
- Stay active and get some exercise.
- Create a revision plan—decide what you'll study and for how long.
- Use effective strategies for revision (e.g. flashcards, practice questions, planning, and summary notes)
- Make use of your teacher and the resources, support, and suggestions they offer.
- Remove distractions (put your mobile phone away while revising)
- If possible, set up a dedicated study area. If not, tidy away your materials after each session so your room returns to a relaxing space.
- Accept that mocks, exams, and Year 11 will bring stress and anxiety—it's completely normal. But do talk to someone about how you're feeling so you can get support if needed.

DON'T

- Try and revise for long periods of time without breaks.
- Try and revise late into the night.
- Try to exist on fast food and sweets.
- Resolve to revise all the time and never take time for yourself to have fun.
- Abandon hobbies and interests.
- Put your head in the sand and not plan out revision (makes things harder!
- Take part in passive revision (re-reading notes, reading text guides…you need to DO something)
- Ignore a really important place of support and resources… your teachers!
- Try to revise with your phone/access to social media/internet/gaming etc.
- Try to revise in a noisy or chaotic location OR turn your bedroom into an office and never clear away the revision.
- Clam up and not share how you are feeling – stress and learning how to manage it is part of Year 11, but if you are feeling upset or anxious you must speak with someone trusted so that you can get support if needed.

Subject Help and Advice

This section of the booklet contains information about all the subjects your child may be studying. For each subject, you'll find the course name, exam board, and details on how the course is assessed. It also outlines what each component or exam contributes towards the final grade.

Online resources

BBC Bitesize
BBC Bitesize is a free online resource offering revision materials, videos, and quizzes across a wide range of subjects, all linked to exam board specifications.

SENECA Learning
Seneca Learning is an online platform that helps students revise through interactive courses and quizzes across multiple subjects, and all our students have their own login to access it.

Sparxs Maths and Science
All students have access to Sparxs Maths and Sparxs Science, which are used weekly for homework. Students can also use these platforms independently for revision and additional practice.

Educake
All students have access to Educake, which is used for English homework. In addition, students can use it independently to revise English Literature texts, complete comprehension and poetry tasks, and improve their spelling, grammar, and vocabulary.

Supporting your child in GCSE Mathematics

Exam syllabus: OCR GCSE Maths

Content Overview	Assessment
Each exam will cover the following content: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and rates of change, Geometry and measures, Probability and statistics & Statistics. There is no guidance of what topics will be cover on which papers. Students will receive a formula sheet.	**Paper 1** (1hour 30): **Calculator** (100 marks) **Paper 2** (1hour 30): **Non-calculator** (100 marks) **Paper 3** (1hour 30): **Calculator** (100 marks) Students will be entered for either Higher (grades 9-4) or Foundation (grades 5 – 1). The tier entry will be finalised after the March mock exams.

Recommended revision guides
CPG Revision Guide and Workbook – can be purchased on Arbor

On-line study aids (click on the links to access the webpages)
- Sparxs Maths
- Maths Genie - Learn GCSE Maths for Free
- Corbettmaths - Videos, worksheets, 5-a-day and much more

Further support available:
St Bede's maths department website Home

Supporting your child in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE English Language

Content Overview	Assessment
Section A Reading: Reading one short fiction extract- Reading (40 marks) (25%) **Section B Writing:** Descriptive or narrative writing- Writing (40 marks) (25%) *16 out of 40 marks are awarded for Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG)*	**Paper 1:** Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing - 1 hour 45
Section A: Reading one short extract from a non-fiction text and one extract from a literary non-fiction text- Reading (40 marks) (25%) **Section B:** Writing to present a viewpoint- Writing (40 marks) (25%). They may be asked to produce a formal letter, news article, magazine article, or speech. *16 out of 40 marks are awarded for Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar (SPaG).*	**Paper 2:** Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives - 1 hour 45
Marked by teacher as a separate endorsement with 0% weighting of GCSE Assessment of: - presenting skills, responding to questions and use of Standard English	Non-exam Assessment: Spoken Language 0% but needs to completed to achieve their grade.

Exam syllabus: EDUQAS GCSE English Literature

Content Overview	Assessment
Shakespeare and Poetry • Section A: one extract question + one essay question on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet • Section B: two poetry questions from the Eduqas Poetry Anthology (one comparing poems) *5 marks for SPAG*	**Paper 1:** Shakespeare and Poetry - 2 hours – 40%
Prose & Unseen Poetry Section A: one source-based question on a modern (post-1914) prose/drama text – An Inspector Calls • Section B: one source-based question on a 19th century prose text – A Christmas Carol • Section C: two unseen poetry questions (one individual, one comparison)	**Paper 2:** Prose & Unseen Poetry - 2 hours 30 – 60%

Recommended revision guides

CPG Revision Guide and Workbook – can be purchased on Arbor

On-line study aids (click on the links to access the webpages)

Revision resources AQA Student and Parent Resources – Past Papers and Guidance

GCSE English Language Exam Narrative Writing Revision:

GCSE English Language Exam Narrative Writing Revision: Top Tips for Grade 9 Descriptions - YouTube

Spelling, punctuation and grammar - EDUCAKE

Eduqas Digital Educational Resources English Literature Exam Board revision materials and Blended Learning Lessons for GCSE Literature.

Eduqas Revision Resources Knowledge organisers for the Literature texts and General resources from Eduqas to support revision.

Further support available: Speak to your English teachers. We are available to support with advice and/or looking at your revision practice questions.

Supporting your child in GCSE Science

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy 8464; GCSE Biology 8461; GCSE Chemistry 8462 and GCSE Physics 8463

Content Overview	Assessment
AQA Combined Science GCSE - Trilogy **Biology** Topics 1 - 4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and bioenergetics Topics 5 - 7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution **Chemistry** Topics 8 - 12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes Topics 13 - 17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources **Physics** Topics 18 - 21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure Topics 22 - 24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism	AQA Combined Science GCSE - Trilogy Qualification (2 GCSE equivalent) 6 written exams. Two in Biology, Chemistry & Physics Each paper is a written exam is out of 70 marks and worth 16.7%. All papers are 1 hour 15 minutes 2 Tiers: The students will be entered for either Higher (grades 9-4) or Foundation (grades 5-1) depending on their ability.
AQA Separate Sciences **Biology** Topics 1 - 4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and bioenergetics Topics 5 - 7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution **Chemistry** Topics 1 - 5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes Topics 6 - 10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources **Physics** Topics 1 - 4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure Topics 5 - 8: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism	**AQA Separate Sciences - (3 separate GCSEs)** Exam separate science has two exams which are 1 hour 45 minutes (100 marks) and worth 50% for that subject. The students will be entered for either Higher (grades 9-4) or Foundation (grades 5-1) depending on their ability.

Recommended revision guides

CPG Revision Guide and Workbook – can be purchased on Arbor

On-line study aids

Sparxs Science and Seneca Learning

Further support available:

St Bede's science department website accessible from the school's website

Supporting your child in GCSE Religious Studies

Exam syllabus: Eduqas Religious Studies Route B

Content Overview	Assessment
Topic 1: Origins and Meanings: Including: Creation of the World, Stewardship and the work of CAFOD **Topic 2:** Good and Evil: Including: The Trinity, the Incarnation and the problem of evil. *In this paper you are required to discuss Catholic, other Christian, Jewish and non-religious (atheist and humanist) views.*	**Paper 1**: **Foundational Catholic Theology** (1 hour 30 minutes) worth 37.5%
Topic 1: Life and Death: Including: Catholic views on life after death, euthanasia and the Magisterium **Topic 2:** Sin and Forgiveness: Including: Capital Punishment, Salvation and Sacraments I*n this paper you are required to only discuss Catholic views.*	**Paper 2**: **Applied Catholic Theology** (1 hour 30 minutes) worth 37.5%
Topic 1: Jewish beliefs: Including: Nature of God, the Messiah and Covenants **Topic 2:** Jewish practices: Including: Worship, rituals and festivals *In this paper you are required to only discuss Jewish views.*	**Paper 3:** - **Judaism** (1 hour) worth 25%

On-line study aids (click on the links to access the webpages)

- Foundational Catholic Theology: Foundational Catholic Theology Paper revision videos
- Applied Catholic Theology: Applied Catholic Theology Revision Videos
- Judaism: Judaism Revision Videos

Further support available:

Revision booklets and past papers can be found on the RE section of the school website: Religious Studies - Student Area

Supporting your child in GCSE French and GCSE German

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE French 8658 – first exam 2026
Exam syllabus: AQA German 8662 – First exam 2026

Content Overview	Assessment
Each exam will cover 3 Themes: **1. People and lifestyle** • Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others • Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle • Topic 3: Education and work **2. Popular Culture** • Topic 1: Free-time activities • Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations • Topic 3: Celebrity culture **3. Communication and the world around us** • Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest • Topic 2: Media and technology • Topic 3: The environment and where people live	**Listening: 25%** Foundation 35 mins + 5 mins reading time 40 marks Higher 45 mins + 5 mins reading time 50 marks **Speaking: 25%** • Role-play • Reading aloud task • Photocard task Foundation 7 to 9 mins and Higher 10 to 12 mins **Reading: 25%** Foundation 45 mins – 50 marks Higher 1 hour - 50 marks **Writing: 25%** Foundation 1 hour 10 mins – 50 marks Higher 1 hour 15 mins - 50 marks Students will be entered for either Higher (grades 9-4) or Foundation (grades 5-1)

Recommended revision guides – can be purchased on Arbor

- Pearson Revise AQA French Revision Guide £6.99
- CGP GCSE French Vocabulary Book £2
- Pearson Revise AQA German Revision Guide £6.99
- CGP GCSE German Vocabulary Book £2

Supporting your child in GCSE History

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE History (8145)

Content Overview	Assessment
Understanding the modern world **Section A:** Germany 1890-1945- Democracy and Dictatorship **Section B:** Conflict and Tension: The inter-war years 1918-1939	**Paper 1:** 2 hours – 50% Maximum 84 marks - 4 marks for SPaG
Shaping the nation **Section A:** Britain, Health & the People: c1000 to present day **Section B**: Elizabethan England, 1568-1603	**Paper 2:** 2 hours – 50% Maximum 84 marks - 4 marks for SPaG

Recommended revision guides

CPG revision guide.

Oxford AQA History revision guides (4 books) - available to purchase from Arbor

On-line study aids

Seneca Learning – students have own log in

BBC Bitesize

Further support available:

St Bede's History department site home, Department revision guides (see teacher), Revision cards (blank) - available to purchase from Arbor

Supporting your child in GCSE Geography

Exam syllabus: Edexcel A GCSE Geography

Content Overview	Assessment
The Physical Environment **Section A:** The changing landscapes of the UK (Geology, Coasts, Rivers) **Section B:** Weather hazards (inc. tropical cyclones & drought) and climate change **Section C:** Ecosystems, biodiversity and management (TRF and DW)	**Paper 1:** 1 hour 45 – 37.5% Maximum mark 94 - 4 marks for SPaG
The Human Environment **Section A:** Changing cities (inc. Birmingham and Mexico City) **Section B:** Global development (inc. India) **Section C:** Resource management (Energy resource management)	**Paper 2:** 1 hour 30 – 37.5% Maximum mark 94 - 4 marks for SPaG
Geographical Investigations and UK Challenges Section A: Geographical investigations – physical environments (Coasts) **Section B:** Geographical investigations – human environments (Rural Settlements) **Section C:** UK challenges	**Paper 3:** 1 hour 30 – 25 % Maximum mark 64 - 4 marks for SPaG

Recommended revision guides

Pearson Edexcel Geography A - available to purchase from Arbor

On-line study aids

Seneca Learning – students have own log in

BBC Bitesize

Further support available:

St Bede's Geography department site home, MSTeams revision section, Department revision guides (emailed), Revision cards (blank) - available to purchase from Arbor

Supporting your child in GCSE Art

Exam syllabus: GCSE Art, Craft and Design

The course is assessed on portfolio work for 60% and the set-task for 40%. The portfolio component is made up of your projects from Year 10 (Natural Forms) and your Year 11 mock exam project (Cells and Our Environment). The set-task (40%) begins in the first lesson in January. This is your actual exam project. You will be given the exam board set-task paper, and you will select one title from it to respond to whilst developing your final project. Each title will provide information to help you and artists to base your project on if you choose.

Important dates and deadlines:

Mock exam: Thursday 3rd December – 5 hours.

Deadline for portfolio work: Friday 18th December as you begin the actual exam /set-task after the Christmas holidays.

Ten-hour exam – Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd April 2027. During the ten-hour exam you work in the Art room under exam conditions to create the final personal responses to your set-task project which you begin in January. You will have selected one title from the set-task exam paper, and you will have produced a whole project in response to that title, and the ten-hour exam is your final opportunity to respond to that title and project. All preparatory work for that project must be handed in before the ten-hour exam begins.

Supporting your child in GCSE Drama

Exam syllabus: OCR GCSE Drama (9-1) J316

Content Overview	Assessment
Non-Examined Assessment (NEA): **Devising Drama** (30%): completed in Year 10 – internally assessed and externally moderated. **Presenting & Performing Texts** (30%): completed in Year 11 – practical assessment in front of a visiting examiner (February / March 2026). **Examined Assessment:** **Performance and Response** (40%): formal written exam in the summer examination series. Section A: Blood Brothers Section B: RENT (The Musical)	**Devising Drama (NEA):** 60 marks **Presenting & Performing Texts (NEA)**: 60 marks **Performance & Response**: 80 marks There are no tiers in GCSE Drama and all students will sit the same examination paper. Outcomes will be grades from 9-1.

Recommended revision guides

CGP Revision Guide (Blood Brothers): GCSE Drama Play Guide - Blood Brothers: for the 2026 and 2027 exams (CGP GCSE Drama) : CGP Books, CGP Books: Amazon.co.uk: Books - purchased directly by parents.

On-line study aids (click on the links to access the webpages)

- Seneca Learning (Blood Brothers will be assigned)

Further support available: Scripts and Videos are available within the Year 11 MS Team.

There is no revision guide for Section B of the written examination as all centres choose their own material. Students will create appropriate revision material in lessons after this has been taught.

Supporting your child in GCSE PE

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE Physical Education 8582

Content Overview	Assessment
Paper 1 (1hour and 15 minutes) Topics covered; anatomy and physiology, movement analysis and physical training. **Paper 2** (1hour and 15 minutes) Topics covered; sports psychology, sociocultural factors, health and well-being	The PE course consists of practical performances and exam. • Practical 40% • Exam 60% - 2 exams both equally weighted

Recommended revision guides

CPG Revision Guide – can be purchased on Arbor

On-line study aids (click on the links to access the webpages)

Seneca Learning Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2

OCR Sports Studies

Exam syllabus: Cambridge Nationals Sports Studies Level 1/2 J829
The Sports Studies course consists of coursework (including practical) and a final exam.

Content Overview	Assessment
Unit R186 – Sport and the Media Unit R185 – Performance & Leadership in Sports Activities Unit R184 – Contemporary Issues in Sport	Unit R186 - Coursework - worth 20% Unit R185 - Coursework including practical assessment - worth 40% Unit R184 – Written exam – 1 hour 15 - worth 40%

Supporting your child in Engineering

Exam syllabus: NCFE Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering

Content Overview	Assessment
Unit 1: Written examination	**Paper 1:** 1 hour 30 – 40%
Unit 2: Synoptic project	An 18 hour time frame, during lessons, involving a theory and practical project worth 60% of the overall assessment.

Supporting your child in Design an Technology

Exam syllabus: AQA GCSE in Design and Technology

Content Overview	Assessment
Unit 1: Written examination	**Paper 1:** 2 hours – 50%
Unit 2: Non-examined assessment A 30-35 hour time frame, during lessons, involving a theory and practical project worth 50% of the overall assessment.	Non exam assessment – 50%

Supporting your child in IT

Exam syllabus: Edexcel BTEC Award in Digital Information Technology

Content Overview	Assessment
Components 1 and 2 is assessed through two practical internal assessments that are set by Edexcel and are externally moderated.	**Component 1**: 30% **Component 2:** 30%
Written paper includes topics on: Modern technology, impact of modern technologies, threats to data, prevention and management of threats to data, policy, responsible use, legal and ethica, forms of notation	**Component 3:** 1 hour 30 - 40%

Health & Social Care

Exam syllabus: Edexcel BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care
The course will be assessed in two different ways.
Components 1 and 2 are assessed through 2 internal assignments, externally moderated.
Component 3 will be an external exam (2hr) and is sat in May.

All 3 components combined will form an overall grade.