

# How to support your child with their GCSEs

## Tony Smith - Deputy Headteacher

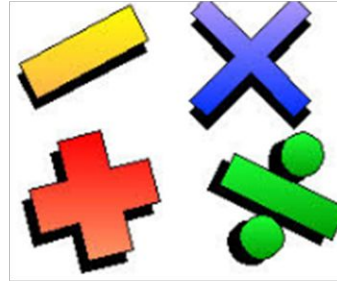




# Aims of the session

- How you can support your child with maths
- How you can support your child with English
- How children learn and what you can do to support your child

# Maths



- 11Ma1 - Higher Tier and Further maths (Ms Corbett)
- 11Ma2 - Higher and Foundation tier (Mr Smith/Ms Spink)
- 11Ma3 - Foundation tier (Ms Wilson)
- 11Ma4 - Foundation tier (Mr Lucas)

## Maths GCSE Edexcel specification:

- 2 tiers of entry (higher and foundation)
- 3 equally weighted papers (1 non-calculator and 2 calculator papers – 90 minutes each)
- Demanding content at both tiers
- A lot of emphasis on problem solving, reasoning and mathematical fluency

# How you can support as a parent is to...


- Regularly check your child is doing their homework.
- Supports learning and practice of GCSE content. Set once a week on Sparx
- **Encourage use of **Sparx** for homework and independent learning.**
- Talk to your child about their maths - you do not have to understand it yourself
- Familiarise yourself with the Tiers of Curriculum on the website
- **Encourage them to see their maths teacher to get help outside of lessons.**
- Ensure they are equipped every day.



# What is Sparx?

<https://www.sparxmaths.uk/>



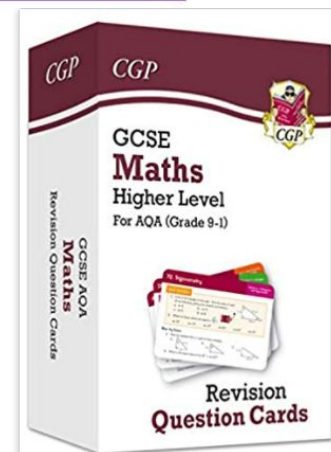
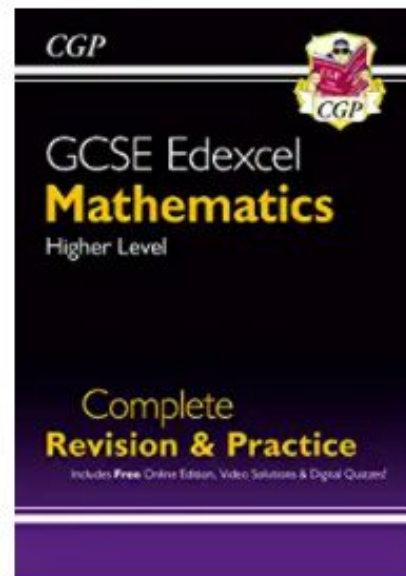
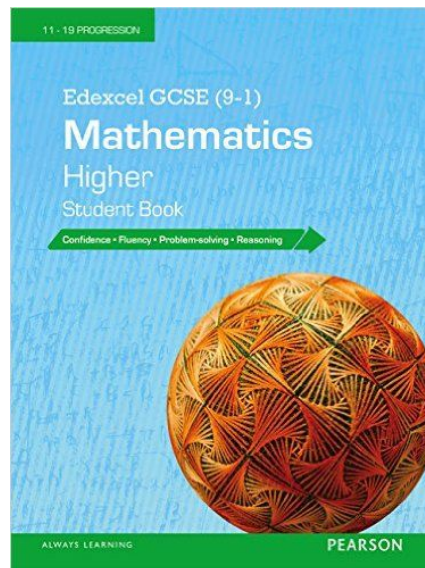
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- Sparx is an incredible tool - it is only good if your child does the homework to best of their ability. Otherwise it will not adjust to their level.



# What revision guides can I get?

## Higher

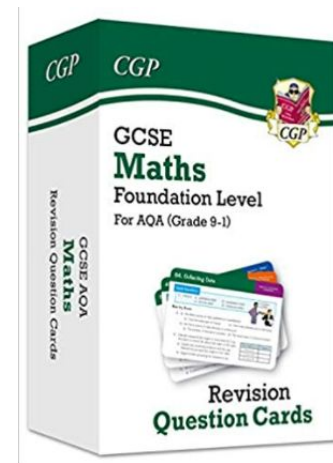
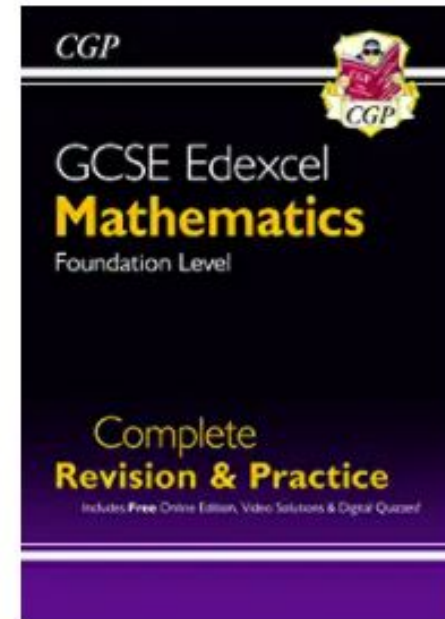
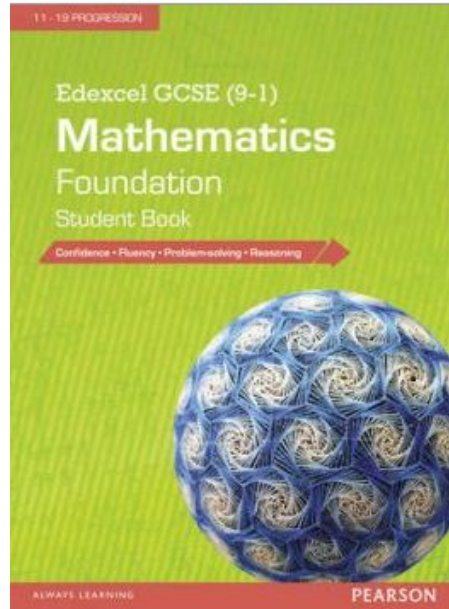
- There are a range of excellent revision guides available online (such as Amazon).
- Anything with 'Edexcel GCSE Maths 9-1' in the title of the textbook is relevant and appropriate.





# Foundation

- There are a range of excellent revision guides available online (such as Amazon).
- Anything with 'Edexcel GCSE Maths 9-1' in the title of the textbook is relevant and appropriate.





11Ma1 - Ms Corbett: hcorbett@chessington...

11Ma2 - Mr Smith & Ms Spink: tsmith.../ nspink...

11Ma3 – Ms Wilson: swilson...

11Ma4 – Mr Lucas: clucas...

The logo for GCSE English, featuring the words "GCSE" and "ENGLISH" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a bright blue, irregular brushstroke shape that has a textured, hand-painted appearance. The background of the slide is white, with a dark maroon header bar at the top and a yellow wavy line separating it from the main content area.

# GCSE ENGLISH

11En1 - Miss Stonehouse: [jstonehouse@chessington](mailto:jstonehouse@chessington).

11En2 – Ms Miller: [kmiller...](mailto:kmiller...)

11En3 – Mrs Cooper: [ccooper...](mailto:ccooper...)

11En4 – Ms Bavarik: [ibaravik...](mailto:ibaravik...)

# GCSE English Language and English Literature

- Two GCSEs
- 100% examination
- No coursework
- Compulsory speaking component (grade awarded separately)
- Greater focus on vocabulary, writer's techniques and sentence variety
- One paper for all abilities
- High quality reading texts which are challenging – including C19th Fiction and Non-Fiction
- 5 lessons a week in Y11

## Exam Board: AQA

### GCSE Papers in Language and Literature = 2 GCSEs

Language Paper 1	Language Paper 2
<b>Assessment</b> . Written exam: 1hr 45 minutes . 80 marks . 50% of GCSE	<b>Assessment</b> . Written exam: 1hr 45 minutes . 80 marks . 50% of GCSE
<b>Questions</b> Section A: Reading (40 marks) 4 x questions on 1 x unseen literature text (from C19 <sup>th</sup> to C21 <sup>st</sup> )  Section B: Writing (40 marks) 1 x Extended writing question – Narrative or descriptive writing.	<b>Questions</b> Section A: Reading (40 marks) 4 x questions 1 x non fiction text and 1 x literary non fiction text  Section B: Writing (40 marks) 1 x Writing to present a viewpoint

#### Literature Paper 1

##### Assessment

Shakespeare plays

The 19th-century novel

- **Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes**
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

##### Questions

##### Section A Shakespeare:

Students to answer 1

question (30 marks + 4 marks SPaG) on *Macbeth*

##### Section B The 19th-century novel:

students will answer one question on *Jekyll and Hyde*

*Hyde*

#### Literature Paper 2

##### Assessment

Modern prose or drama texts

The poetry anthology

Unseen poetry

- **Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes**
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

##### Questions

##### Section A Modern texts:

students will answer one essay question from a choice of two from *An Inspector Calls* (30 marks for content, 4 marks SPaG).

**Section B Poetry:** students will answer one comparative poetry question (30 marks).

##### Section C Unseen poetry:

students will answer 2 questions on unseen poems

# Main Expectations in English

1. Students must make full use of learning time in class by being fully engaged and working to best of ability, challenging themselves, asking questions and writing/note taking continuously.
2. Students need to take full responsibility for the quality of their homework, ensuring adequate time is given to English and ensuring it is purposeful and they can learn from doing it. This will take the form of pre-reading and revision activities.
3. Students need to build their resilience and independence; they can start creating revision resources now and ensuring they feel prepared for future assessments and mocks. They need to become self-reliant and ask questions, seek advice and attend any booster sessions offered to them.
4. In order to succeed in exams, students need to build on their writing stamina and not be put off by extended writing. The more writing practice they do, the better they get at it.
5. Finally – there is no time to waste! We are here to fully support students and if they have a ‘can do’ attitude, they will succeed.



# What to Expect...

Some students will work hard and put full effort into the subject to achieve the best they can.

As teachers, we mark to criteria – not grades (as the grade boundaries always change) – so we continue to develop the quality of their written responses.

## **Your child may:**

- Be selected for a 'Booster/intervention Group' after school
- Be asked to stay behind to re-do homework or classwork
- We may call you to discuss any issues
- We will not tolerate disruption in class

Everything we do is for the benefit of our students because we know what works.

# How you can help as a parent...

- Does your son/daughter read fiction?
- Does your son/daughter watch/read the news?
- Does your son/daughter have opinions about current affairs?

Writing is worth 50% of English Language – it needs to be a priority.

Paper 1 Language Q5 (worth 25% of GCSE) requires students to write a story – the more they read, the better their vocabulary and understanding of structure is. It also helps to stimulate their own ideas.

Paper 2 Language Q5 (worth 25% of GCSE) requires students to write an opinion piece on a topical issue – the more they read and understand about the world and current issues, the more they will have to write about and express their views.

The reading sections (Q1-4) is more accessible if students read as it helps with their comprehension and analytical skills.

# How you can help as a parent...

- Encourage your son/daughter to read in short bursts and choose something they can engage with – any reading helps but it needs to be a work of quality literature.
- Ask them to download the *BBC News* or *SKY News* APP on their phone so they can catch up on daily news events.
- It is important they are aware of topical issues and can write an opinion piece. The more they know about the world and society, the more detailed and informed their writing will be.

# AQA Topical Issues - Areas of Focus

<i>World of work</i>	<i>The Environment</i>	<i>Rights and responsibilities</i>
Child labour	Climate Change + Energy	Voting / Government
Equal Pay / Inequality	Urban vs Rural	Education
Part Time Jobs	Litter and Pollution	Healthy Eating / Living / Lifestyle
Work Experience	The Natural World	Living Online

# Resources/Texts

## Language

Non fiction

Literary Non Fiction

C19th to C21st  
Literature

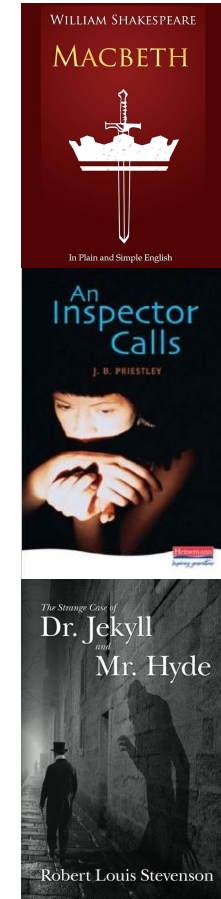
We provide a lot of material, but there are additional revision guides and work books with practice extracts and questions available to purchase.

## Literature

Texts that students should have  
own copy of:

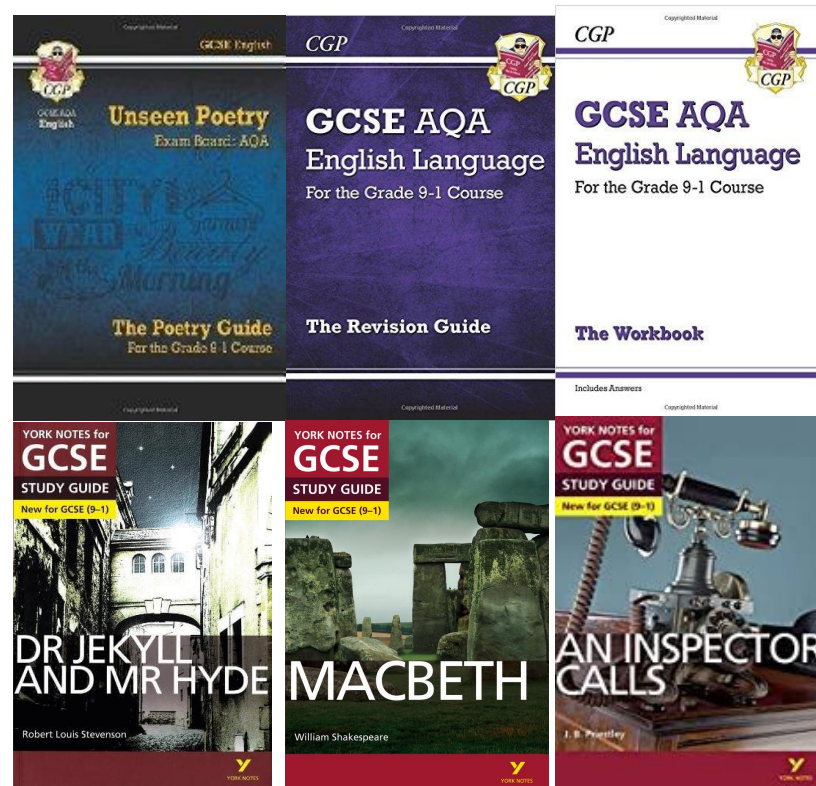
*Macbeth* – William Shakespeare  
*An Inspector Calls* – J.B. Priestley.  
*Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* – Robert  
Louis Stevenson

Poetry we provide in class:  
*AQA Poetry Anthology*  
*Unseen poetry: can be a range of  
poems from literary heritage to  
contemporary poems*



# What revision guides should I buy?

- There are a range of excellent revision guides available online (such as Amazon).
- Anything with 'AQA' in the title of the textbook is relevant and appropriate.
- It must be for GCSE (9-1)





# General revision strategies

Stuff that is proven to not work:

- “going over my notes”
- “I need to work harder” – what does this mean?
- Using past papers exclusively to revise

Stuff that does work:

- Self-testing
- Spaced practice – revise it now, practise it now and **practise it later**: mimics an exam

# What can you do as a parent in general?



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## MANAGING TIME



FROM TODAY...

START DOING AT LEAST ONE 30 MINUTE REVISION SESSION AT HOME EVERYDAY SO THAT YOU BEGIN TO BUILD A HABIT.

AS THE EXAMS GET CLOSER YOU WILL NEED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SESSIONS YOU DO AT HOME EACH DAY.

# What can you do as a parent in general?

Weekly Revision Plan

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
TIME							
TIME							
TIME							
TIME							

Weeks left to exams

Wins this week

Goals this week

Rewards

What I didn't complete/ What I need to revisit/ Questions to ask my teacher

Checklist

Leitner system retrieval?	
Cornell 'cold testing'	
Past paper practice?	

# Summary

- Make sure your child does their homework
- Make sure your child grabs every opportunity offered to them
- Sparx maths: A tool which reacts to your child
- English: Read, read, read... know what is going on in the world
- General: No phones, 30 minute sessions



Any Questions?