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# Year 11 GCSE Information Evening

# Welcome

**2025-2026**

**17:30-18:30**



**Wye School**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

■ Ambition ■ Confidence ■ Creativity ■ Respect ■ Enthusiasm ■ Determination

# Agenda

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- Introduction – Luke Magee and Rachael Burden
- Achievement, Progress and Next Steps – Rachael Burden - Assistant Principal
- Mathematics - Tracy Boswell, Head of Maths
- Science – Vicky Grist – Head of Science
- English – Fran McCormack, Acting Head of English, 2<sup>nd</sup> in department
- Pastoral, attendance and revision - Mr Millward, Head of Year (Ms Burden)
- Question and Answers

Also available – Nicola Ash, SENCO



# Vision for Wye

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- Continue to be a smaller than average community school that has strong relationships and happy students
- A well-behaved school with traditional good manners and respect for people of all backgrounds
- Outward facing, using the best of United Learning's experience in private and state schools across England
- Students making excellent academic progress
- That Year 11 leave us in nine months' time (and that time will fly) qualified and ready for their next step.



# Priorities for Year 11

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- To accept only the very best of themselves
- No limits, no barriers to success or learning
- To be fully aware of the challenges this year, but not too stressed by them
- To be fully prepared for the next steps, understanding that they are laying the foundation for lifelong success



Children only get one chance - but are not alone, we will support you all the way to success

'we' = parents and school



Wye School  
@WyeSchoolKent

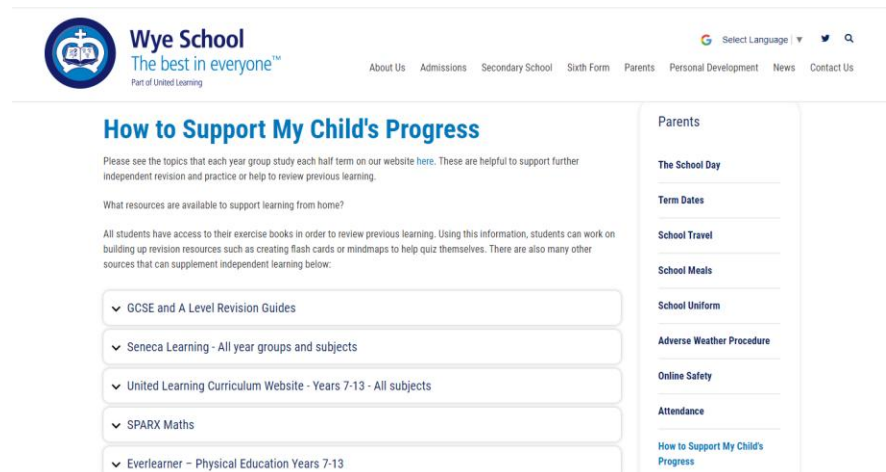
GCSE Results Day 2025. A happy morning where our students found out their grades and made their plans for Post 16 study. Well done, and good luck, to all for getting to this point in life, leaving mainstream school, setting out on your next steps in education and then employment.



# Support

Parental support is 8 times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class.

The Campaign for Learning found that **parental involvement** in a child's education can mean the difference between **two grades at GCSE level**.



School website



# Your Number is almost up...!

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- **2235** – Number of days in school from foundation stage up until year 11
- **2090** Days completed
- **180** Days left (8%!)
- **145** Hours of **English** lessons for 2 GCSEs
- **115** Hours of **Mathematics**
- **55** Hours of **Science** lessons per science
- **70** Hours of **Options** subjects



# Year 11 Timeline

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- Y11 Parents info Evening – 10/9/25 – 17:30
- Kent Choices opens – November
- Autumn term - Students should visit post-16 open evenings
- Autumn Term – Career advice from external provider
- Mock Window 1 – 3/11/25 ->14/11/25
- Y11 Reports – End of Term 2 – December
  - These are the grades students will put onto their post-16 applications
- Y11 Parents Evening – 14/1/26
- Mock Window 2 – 23/2/26 -> 6/3/26
- Y11 Reports – End of Term 4 – Early April
- First GCSE exams begin 07/5/26.
- **Provisional** prom date – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July
- GCSE Results day Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August





# Internal exams

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- Year 11 sit two internal exam series during this academic year
- Throughout the year there are other internal mocks for subjects such as Art, Hospitality and Catering and PE
- Internal exam results assemblies each time



# External exams

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- **May and June.**
- Students will **not** have study leave during the first 2/3 of their exams so they have dedicated teacher support in class. You will be told a date that study leave begins via email.
- There are other external exams throughout the year that students must be present for eg English, Art, PE and Food. These count towards their GCSE grade.
- It is **not** possible to change the date for any exam and 100% attendance is expected. This includes Art practical dates.



# Parents' Evenings

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- In person
- Drop in independent careers advice available from KCC on site.
- What should I be asking?
  - Progress
  - My child's engagement
  - Strengths and weaknesses
  - How can I help at home?



# For the current Year 11

## GCSE Assessment -Y11 Steph

- In the summer of 2019 she will take GCSEs in:
  - English Language - Two 1¾ hr exams
  - English Literature – One 2¼ hr exam, one 1¾ hr exam
  - Maths – Three 1½ hr exams
  - Combined Science - Six 1¼ hr exams
  - Spanish – One 45 min exam, one 1hr exam, one 1¼ hr exam, plus 25% NEA
  - RE - Two 1¾ hr exams
  - Product Design – One 2 hr exam (50%), plus 50% NEA
  - History – Two 1¾ hr exams
  - Drama – One 1½ hr exam (40%), plus 60% NEA
- **TOTAL NUMBER OF EXAMS - 22**
- **TOTAL EXAM LENGTH - 33 HRS**
- **YEAR 11 SUMMER EXAMS REPRESENT 86.5% OF TOTAL GCSE ASSESSMENT**



# Support - what can you do?

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- Provide a **quiet space** for students to work.
- **Show interest each day** in what they are doing.
- Try to resist giving students the impression that a subject doesn't matter eg 'I was never any good at science'.
- Correct language – if your son daughter says they cannot do it, qualify this – they cannot do it **yet**!
- Be familiar with **deadlines** – put these on the family calendar / outlook etc.
- Look at books, ask questions, help with a **revision timetable**.
- Remind your child that to succeed, you must work hard!
- Regularly check they have the correct **equipment**
- Make sure they eat a healthy **breakfast** before school
- **Ensure that they attend school and are on time.**



# Support - where else can you turn?

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- Listen and if there is a real concern, please contact us. If a student has an issue with a subject, we can help to provide support and encouragement.  
Use Form tutors as first port of call.
- Ask about tutor time, masterclasses and lunchtime interventions – students will be doing additional work towards core and other subjects during these times.



# Mathematics

**MS BOSWELL**



# GCSE external Maths exams

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Edexcel Mathematics (1MA1) for summer 2024

**PAPER 1 (Non-Calculator)**

**PAPER 2 (Calculator)**

**PAPER 3 (Calculator)**

**All papers are 1hr 30mins**

Each paper will assess any topic from the curriculum.

Each paper has 80 marks and is equally weighted.

**Foundation: Grades 1 - 5**

**Higher: Grades 4 - 9**

**(4 = C/D)**

**(6 = B, 7 = A)**





# Type of exam questions:

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		Weighting
AO1	Use and apply standard techniques	50 (F) 40 (H)
AO2	Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically	25 (F) 30 (H)
AO3	Solve problems with mathematics and in other contexts	25 (F) 30 (H)



# Support for Maths

Pen, pencil, ruler, planner, geometry set and calculator **every** lesson

CGP Revision Guide. New Edexcel 9-1. Higher or Foundation.

Casio FX-83GT CW, FX-85GT CW or FX-991CW Calculator £10-£25

<https://sparxmaths.com/> to use independently.

Homework will be a collection of Sparx and/or GCSE questions set by the class teacher each week. **Due in on Wednesday every week.**

**Monday 29th Sept-Early Mock (Non-calc)** to check the correct tier before half term.

**Maths masterclasses during tutor time**, twice per half term.

**Maths intervention during tutor time** to focus on key knowledge needed to make good progress.

- **Maths intervention during lunch** targeted students invited.

**Maths Genie website** – topic by topic revision (3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> column)



# How to help your child

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1. Encourage regular use of Sparxmaths on topics that are not secure.
2. Ensuring your child is completing their weekly homework on time.
3. Verbally test your child on recalling formulae from the GCSE formulae sheet (found on EDEXCEL website).
4. Check they have the correct equipment for each lesson.
5. Use CGP Revision Guides / Workbooks.
6. Encourage a little and often approach to revising.
7. Remind students that consistent self-testing of key facts AND lots of practice is the most effective way to study



# Science

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## Key details:

- AQA examining board
- Separate Biology/Chemistry/Physics (3 GCSEs)  
or Trilogy: Combined Science (2 GCSEs)



- Pathway/level reviewed after mock examinations
- Fully examination assessed – no coursework
- Required practical work completed in class



# Content

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## Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

## Physics

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

## Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

## Additional for Triple: Physics Space



# Pathways

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## Combined Science: Trilogy

### 2 GCSEs

100% examination assessed

2x Biology, 2x Chemistry and 2x Physics papers

6 x 1 hour 15 minute examinations

Foundation and Higher Tier

Grades:

Foundation: Grades 1-5

Higher: Grades 4-9

Awarded as: 9/9, 9/8, 8/8, 8/7, 7/7, 7/6, 6/6 etc.



# Pathways

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## Separate GCSEs: Biology/Chemistry/Physics

### 3 GCSEs

100% examination assessed

2x Biology, 2x Chemistry and 2x Physics papers

6 x 1 hour 45 minute examinations

Higher Tier only

Grades: 4-9 in each science

Awarded as: Biology 7, Chemistry 6, Physics 7



# Required Practicals

*‘Practical work is at the heart of science – that’s why we have placed it at the heart of each of our GCSE science specifications. By carrying out carefully considered practical work, students will enhance their investigative thinking, improve their mastery of techniques and consolidate their understanding of key scientific concepts.’*

GCSE Chemistry required practical activity: Making salts

Student sheet

**These are completed  
in class for all pathways**

Required practical activity	Apparatus and techniques	Achieved?
Preparation of a pure, dry sample of a soluble salt from an insoluble oxide or carbonate, using a Bunsen burner to heat dilute acid and a water bath or electric heater to evaporate the solution.	<p>AT 2– Safe use of appropriate heating devices and techniques including use of a Bunsen burner and a water bath or electric heater.</p> <p>AT 3 – Use of appropriate apparatus and techniques for conducting chemical reactions, including appropriate reagents.</p> <p>AT 4 – Safe use of a range of equipment to purify and/or separate chemical mixtures including evaporation, filtration, crystallisation.</p> <p>AT 6 – Safe use and careful handling of liquids and solids, including careful mixing of reagents under controlled conditions.</p>	





# Style of exam questions:

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Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

		Weighting
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific techniques and procedures	40
AO2	Apply knowledge and understanding of: scientific ideas; scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures	40
AO3	Analyse information and ideas to: interpret and evaluate; make judgements and draw conclusions; develop and improve experimental procedures	20



# How to help your child:

- CGP Bio/Chem/Phys or Trilogy Revision Guides/Workbooks
- Seneca learning
- AQA website has past papers to practice
- BBC Bitesize
- Cognito
- Supporting and prompting lots of practice on a regular basis
- Intervention support

The screenshot displays two overlapping web browser windows. The top window, titled 'BBC Bitesize - GCSE Chemistry', shows a page for 'Solubility' with a definition: 'Solubility is a measurement of how much of a substance will dissolve in a given volume of a liquid. The liquid is called the solvent. The solubility of a gas depends on pressure and temperature.' The bottom window shows the 'AQA GCSE Biology Third edition' textbook cover, featuring a green and white design with a microscopic image of a cell. The Windows taskbar at the bottom includes icons for various applications and a footer with the text 'Confidence Creativity Respect'.

The image shows the front cover of a 'CGP GCSE Chemistry For AQA (Grade 9-1) Exam Practice Workbook'. The cover is white with a red and yellow border. It features the CGP logo at the top right, which includes a cartoon character reading a book. The title 'GCSE Chemistry' is in large red letters, with 'For AQA (Grade 9-1)' in smaller black text below it. The words 'Exam Practice Workbook' are written in large red letters at the bottom. A small image of the workbook's pages is shown in the background. At the very bottom, it says 'Includes Answers' and 'For the new course starting September 2016'.

# English

Ms McCormick



# English Language and English Literature GCSEs

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- Two GCSEs – both GCSEs in English ‘as important as each other’.
- No Coursework or Controlled Assessments.
- Spoken Language Component mark awarded. (Students deliver a speech/ presentation to peers and teacher)
- 100% exam.



# English Language GCSE

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- Exam board: AQA
- Two papers, each 1 hour 45 in length
- Both exams are **equally** important
- Dates: All dates are currently provisional and potentially subject to change

**Paper 1** (fiction and creative writing) **21 May 2026**

**Paper 2** (non-fiction and informative/persuasive writing) **5 June 2026**



# Language: Where do we go next?

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By December:

- Students to have sound knowledge of **question level requirements** in every question
- Students to know how to identify and comment on language techniques in writing, including word level analysis, and structural techniques in writing
- Students to be able to produce different types of writing, **creative fictional pieces** and **factual pieces**
- Students' writing to be **grammatically accurate**, have **correct spellings** and contain different sentence types



# Support for English Language 2024-2025

Pen, ruler, **highlighters** and whiteboard pens every lesson

Read outside of school, both fiction and non-fiction.

Know how to identify language techniques and structural techniques.

Revision guides and workbooks

Internal exams

Intervention groups

Practice past papers and familiarisation with exam

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

Youtube channel – Mr Bruff Maths



# English Literature GCSE

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- Exam board: AQA
- Two papers, the first is 1 hour 45 and the second is 2 hours 15 in length
- Both exams are **equally** important
- Dates:

**Paper 1** (texts from the Literary Heritage) **11 May 2026**

**Paper 2** (modern texts) **29 May 2026**





# Literature: Where do we go next?

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- We are finishing the final topic this half term.
- The majority of Year 11 is revision of the following:
  - Shakespeare: Macbeth
  - Nineteenth-Century Novel: A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)
- Modern Text: An Inspector Calls (J.B. Priestley)
- Poetry Anthology: Power and Conflict poetry cluster from the AQA anthology
- Unseen Poetry: Practise of unseen poetry



# Support for English Literature 2024-2025

Pen, ruler, highlighters and whiteboard pens every lesson

Re-read the texts and know them inside out. Revision lessons will focus on important scenes – not the whole text.

Know key characters and key themes for each text.

Start to memorise quotes for each text.

Revision guides and workbooks later in the year

Internal exams

Intervention groups

Practice past papers and familiarisation with exam

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

Mr Bruff Youtube Channel

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# Pastoral and Revision

Mr Millward  
Head of Year 11



# Year 11 Tutor Team

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**Head of Year 11 - Mr Millward**

## **Tutor Team**

- **Maths – Mrs Boswell (HoD Maths), Ms Hunter and Ms Cusani**
- **English – Ms Williams (HoD English) and Ms Canter**
- **Science – Mrs Grist (HoD Science) and Mr Steadwood**

\*Tutor groups may change after each mock cycle



# Year 11 Tutor

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8:35am - 9:10

- English, Maths and Science intervention (2-3 sessions per week)
- Thursday core subject masterclass (1 session per week)
- Assembly, careers discussions, PSHE and opportunities for celebration (1-2 sessions)



# Expectations of students

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- 100% effort, 100% of the time with school support
- Active engagement
- Prompt to school and lessons
- Correct equipment every lesson
- Correct uniform every day
- Completion of homework every week
- **Try** everything, even if they are not sure – working on resilience



# Attendance is the most fundamental requirement



\* and a square without good GCSEs

-5% = ~1 grade boundary

Expected attendance is 95% or higher.



# Homework and Equipment

Studies have shown that completing homework is equivalent to an additional **5 months** of education or **6 months** when involving digital technologies.



- *Students receive approximately 1 hour of homework per subject per week. Logged on Arbor.*
- *Before tests, students should also be independently revising.*
- *Praise and sanctions*

## Essential equipment:

- Black/blue pen
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Highlighter
- Scientific calculator
- Protractor
- Pair of compasses
- PE kit
- Reading book

*All equipment (except calculators) are available for purchase at Reception during break and lunch only.*





# How well is my child doing?

From the mock exams in November/December, you will receive the following:

**Current Grades** – This indicates the level they are currently working at.

**Target Grades** – This is an aspirational grade based on their Key Stage 2 SATS scores. If they achieve their target grade, they are making excellent progress.

**Predicted Grade** – This is the grade we think they will achieve at the end of the course.

**Learning Indicator** – This is an effort grade. It can be either Poor, Requires Improvement, Good or Excellent.



# Mentoring

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Later in the year, some students will be assigned a mentor if we feel they need additional support, however students will always have the opportunity to talk to a teacher about the following:

- ✓ Discuss subjects
- ✓ Homework/subject deadlines
- ✓ Revision planning
- ✓ Exams



# Post-16 Options

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- Students at Wye will soon be completing their Post-16 Options.
- We will be supporting them with their application through Kent Choices.
- **We strongly encourage you to visit open days over the coming 2 months for a range of providers.**



# CXK Careers guidance

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We are extremely lucky to be able to work with CXK Careers Guidance

Every student will have a meeting with a Careers adviser before the deadline for Post-16 options.

This will either be in the form of a 1:1 interview, or a group session (Max. 4 people)

These are confidential, and students will be sent a summary sheet of what has been discussed by the advisor.



# Post-16

What are the upcoming timelines for Post-16 applications?



## NOVEMBER

Young people will receive their log in details for the online application system. There will be a letter available for parents to explain this.



## MARCH/APRIL

Young people should start to receive offers following their applications and they will be asked to put these in order of preference.

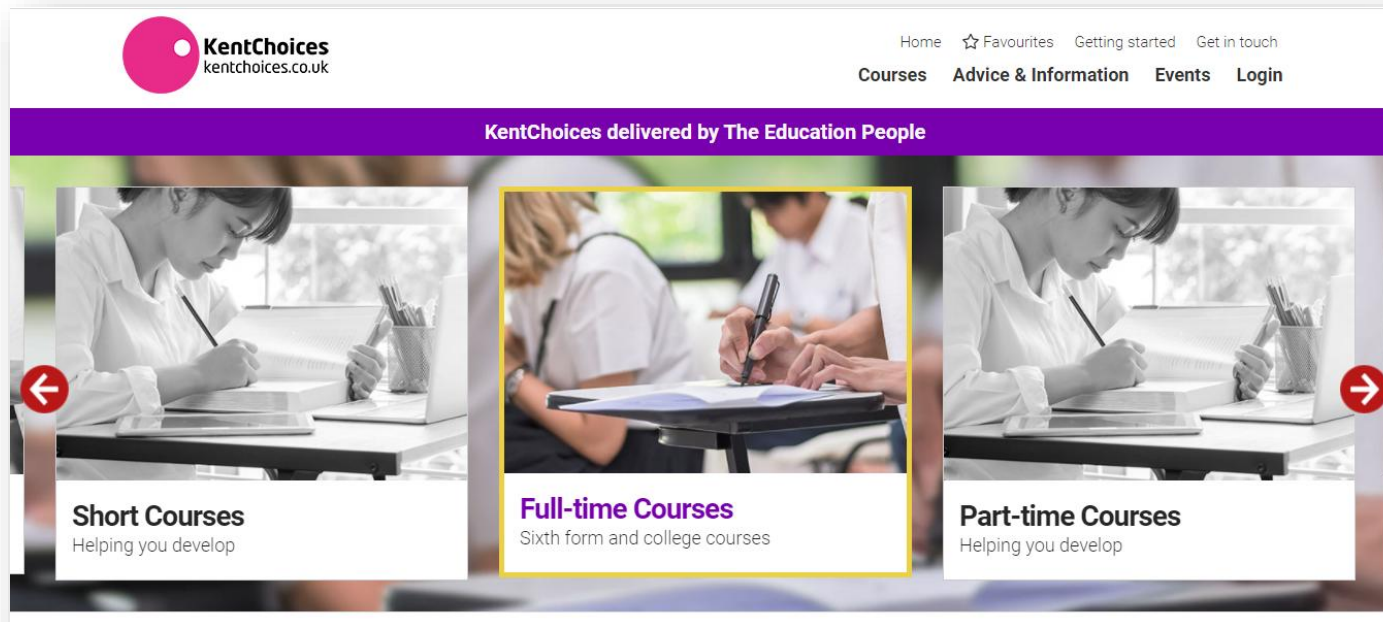


## NOVEMBER ONWARDS

Young people should be making applications to their chosen post-16 establishment.



# Kent Choices website is there to help



# Choosing a destination

**1**

## Apply Early

Use predicted grades in any applications you make.

**2**

## Research

Look at the entry requirements, what's available locally and use websites to research different job profiles.

Future Careers

**3**

Try and link your post-16 options to a future career or aspiration.

**4**

## Make Multiple Applications

Post-16 providers will make offers but these are conditional on meeting the requirements and subject to availability.

**5**

## Work with your School

The school's careers advisers and teachers can offer advice on post-16 options.

**6**

## English and Maths

If you don't achieve a Level 4 in English and Maths you will work towards this Post-16



# Revision Materials/Books

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- [A list of the specific revision guides you will need is available on the website.](#)
- Targeted revision materials/books
- Be specific with general revision websites
- Sample assessment materials
- Past Papers





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For any questions, please feel free to talk to any member of staff after the meeting and we will be happy to help.

