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# HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN...?

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A GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF  
YEAR 9 STUDENTS

WINTERTON  
COMMUNITY  
ACADEMY



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## INTRODUCTION

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These booklets are now in their seventh year after parents told us they would like to know more about how they can help their child succeed. It supplements other advice, on our website and elsewhere, that is available and your child's reports and parents' evening meetings.

### Why do we need these booklets?

There is clear evidence, and we agree, that engaging parents with their child's learning is extremely positive and leads to wide-ranging benefits. One of the best influences on our students is their parents and we know that as we strive to be Outstanding, the students need to strive for that goal and their parents need to be fully involved in this too. After all, as teachers see them for such a small part of each week (15% of a year) the influence of the parents has got to be a major factor in their success.

*Parents have the greatest influence on the achievement of young people through supporting their learning in the home rather than supporting activities in the school.*

*It is their support of learning within the home environment that makes the maximum difference to achievement. (Do Parents Know They Matter, Harris, Andrew-Power&Goodall 2009)*

### What is this booklet for?

This booklet endeavours to give you greater insight into what your child is studying, what you can do to support them and what they can do to take a greater interest in the subjects they take and promote their learning at home - after all, that is where they spend the majority of their lives!

It is not intended to be the definitive guide to every subject they study but an overview of what you may need to know in order to provide any relevant support.

### What else can we do?

In addition to this subject-specific advice, literacy, numeracy and information from the IGLU, I would like to emphasise three other key areas which we believe can be of greatest influence.

#### 1. Encouragement and Praise

*"It's great when my teacher is pleased with me, but your dad's your dad!" Year 7 student*

#### 2. Take greater ownership of their homework - what it is, when it is due and is it complete?

a. See the Homework page on our website for details of our expectations.

#### 3. Emphasise the 'Outstanding Learner Cards' and their importance - These have been in existence for 5 years with the overview being many students ARE already Outstanding and don't even realise it!

a. In a nutshell... Give 100% Effort as often as possible; Stay 100% focussed in lessons as often as possible; Behave well in lessons, around the school and to each other.



b. Scorecards are integrated into your child's planner so you can track their scores, what they mean and their targets. Making it easier for you to help them to achieve them.

#### Some additional tips that may help:

- Help them with other organisation - homework completion and organising their bag for the next day
  - We have standard school equipment for sale in the school office.
- Agree a balance between school work, social life and other distractions.
- Provide the best environment for learning as you can. Ideally a quiet place just for their learning.
- Provide the resources they need for revision - folders, highlighters, cue-cards, post-its, paper, pens, memory sticks, etc. Help to plan their revision timetables too.

I hope you find this 'guide' useful and would welcome any thoughts on how we can improve either this booklet for the next Year 9 students or subsequent booklets for other year groups.

Thank you

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## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED WITH HELP FROM THE IGLU?

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'IGLU' stands for Intervention Group Learning Unit. We offer a range of opportunities for students to boost their performance in English and Mathematics, as well as improving general study skills.

### What are the key websites that my child could use?

English:

- [www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise](http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise)
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize> (also covers Mathematics)
- <http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/literacy/index.htm>

Maths:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>
- <http://www.mathswatch.vle.com>
- <http://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk>

### What after school or other extracurricular activities are available from the IGLU and when are they?

We have a very limited number of one-to-one (or very small group) sessions available to be booked at lunchtimes or after school. These individually tailored sessions are run by a learning mentor and can be used by students who would like a boost with any area of English or Mathematics. Sessions can be booked by speaking to Miss B Bartlett or Mrs A Burman. You could encourage your child to book one of these sessions if one of the following applies to them:

- They are struggling to understand one or more areas of English or Mathematics.
- They have missed some work through illness and would like to catch up.

### If I need to speak to someone about study support from the IGLU, who should I contact and how?

Miss B Bartlett (English) [bartlett.b@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk](mailto:bartlett.b@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk)

Mrs A Burman (Mathematics) [burman.a@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk](mailto:burman.a@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk)

## LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

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As a school, we are endeavouring to improve students' literacy across the curriculum in order to ensure further attainment in all subject areas.

### Home Reading

Encourage your child to read to develop their reading skills and their vocabulary. Between the ages of 5 - 8, 30% of children will read every day - this falls by almost half by the time they are 15-17 where only 17% will read every day. Support your child by providing opportunities for them to read on a daily basis ask them about what they are reading, what predictions can they make about what will happen next? They should be reading a range of genres and experiencing the work of various authors. The range should include both fiction and non-fiction texts. This will help them to develop their skills which can then be incorporated into their own work. Remember, any home reading is better than none at all. Please try to encourage reading in your child by providing them with access to reading materials. Reading in tutorial time and English lessons is common and therefore it helps if your child has access to their own reading material, in addition to the material we provide at school.

### Why Literacy across the curriculum?

Not only are the skills of reading and writing fundamental to fully functioning in life, they are also important skills that are examined at G.C.S.E. level. The assessment of spelling, punctuation and grammar is also an integral part of the grading for many other subjects in both Controlled Assessments and examination questions. It is vital then, that students apply their literacy skills in all subject areas if they are to maximise their potential. It is also important that students realise that their literacy skills are transferrable and should be applied in each subject area. We have a common Literacy Marking Key that is used by all teachers of all subjects to try and support Literacy development across the curriculum.

### How do I help with Extended Writing?

Throughout the year, students will be given the opportunity to do extended writing tasks in which they can practise and develop their literacy skills. You can support your child by discussing the tasks certainly in the developmental section where you can help them to focus their ideas.

Please check the website below to help your child develop their writing styles:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/english/writing/>

### How do I help with Reading?

Students will read a range of fiction/non-fiction texts across all subject areas. You can support your child by discussing why particular words or phrases have been chosen. Students often find non-fiction texts hard to analyse so further analysis of these can only be of benefit.

The website below will help you to support your child to develop their reading skills:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/english/reading/>

### How do I help with Speaking and Listening?

Students will also need to practise their Speaking and Listening skills across the curriculum. This can be in the form of: presenting information; creating and sustaining roles; group discussion work. When students are asked to present information, the best presentations are those that have been practised to ensure students speak clearly and fluently. Your support in listening to presentations before they speak in class will help students to achieve the best possible grade.

The website below for help to support your child to develop their speaking and listening skills:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/english/speaking\\_listening/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize/english/speaking_listening/)

## Half-Termly Literacy Focus - your role as a parent

During each half term, all teaching staff, when assessing a piece of work, will also mark the work with this particular focus in mind. Please take this opportunity to develop your child's literacy skills by checking through their homework for literacy, e.g. have capital letters been used accurately, has punctuation been used at the end of each sentence?

### Literacy Focus - 2017-2018

| Term     | Focus  | Example  |
|----------|--|--|
| Autumn 1 | Spelling.  | Key subject vocabulary to be deployed and focused on at your discretion.   |
| Autumn 2 | Homophones: there, their, they're.   | Look over there!<br>The boys put their football boots on.<br>They're receiving lots of support in school.  |
| Spring 1 | Punctuation at the end of sentences.   | Encourage the accurate use of a range of punctuation at the end of a sentence, including :<br>Full stop.<br>Exclamation mark!<br>Question mark?<br>Ellipses... |
| Spring 2 | Homophones: where, wear, were, we're.  | Where is my pencil case?<br>What shall I wear today?<br>If only it were a hot, sunny day.<br>We're having a fantastic time at the show.                        |
| Summer 1 | Accurate use of capitalisation (Writing a word with its first <u>letter</u> as a <u>capital letter</u> and the remaining letters in <u>lower case</u> ). | Ensuring all sentences and proper nouns begin with a capital letter. Ensure that capital letters are not used inappropriately when writing.                    |
| Summer 2 | Use of varied and ambitious vocabulary.  | Subject areas to develop the use of subject specific ambitious vocabulary and promote the word of the week. (Whilst supporting accurate spelling).             |

## NUMERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

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Numeracy skills used can vary vastly from subject to subject.

Each subject area in the school is being supported by a member of the Mathematics team. Work is being developed to support students with aspects of each subject.

One key area you can emphasise is the importance of Mathswatch (see Mathematics section) and using this **over and above** the homework that may have been set will help further develop students' Mathematics skills.

As a school, we are endeavouring to improve students' numeracy across the curriculum in order to ensure further attainment in all subject areas.



## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN MATHEMATICS?

What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

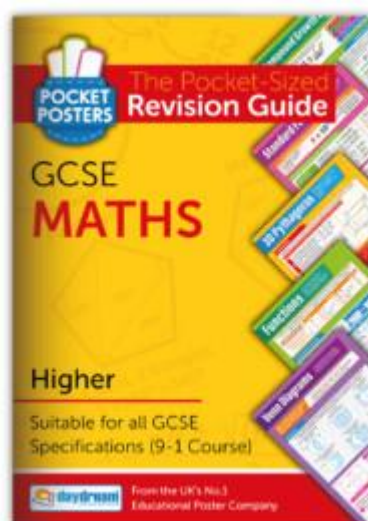
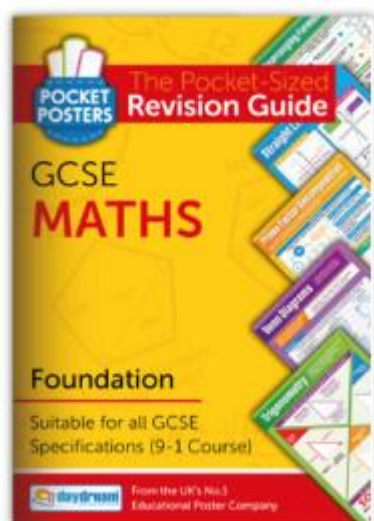
Throughout Year 9, students will be consolidating and extending their knowledge of the following topics. This is a continuation of our 5 year GCSE course from Year 7 to Year 11.

| Higher GCSE (Grades 4 - 9)                 | Foundation GCSE (Grades 1 – 5)           |
|--|--|
| 1 Number, indices, standard form and surds | 1 Integers and decimals                  |
| 2 Algebra and equations                    | 2 Algebra and formulae                   |
| 3 Statistics and representing data         | 3 Graphs and data handling               |
| 4 Fractions, percentages and ratios        | 4 Fractions, decimals and percentages    |
| 5 Pythagoras' theorem and trigonometry     | 5 Statistics and averages                |
| 6 Graphs of equations                      | 6 Angles and polygons                    |
| 7 Perimeter, area, 3D shapes and accuracy  | 7 Equations, inequalities and sequences  |
| 8 Transformations and constructions        | 8 Perimeter, area and volume             |
| 9 Quadratic and simultaneous equations     | 9 Real life graphs                       |
| 10 Probability                             | 10 Transformations                       |
| 11 Rates of change and compound measures   | 11 Ratio and proportion                  |
| 12 Similarity in 2D and 3D                 | 12 Pythagoras' theorem and trigonometry  |
| 13 Advanced trigonometry                   | 13 Probability                           |
| 14 Cumulative frequency and histograms     | 14 Rates of change and compound measures |
| 15 Graphs of complex equations             | 15 Constructions, bearings and 3D shapes |
| 16 Circle theorems                         | 16 Quadratic equations                   |
| 17 Re-arranging formula and rationalising  | 17 Circles, cones, cylinders and spheres |
| 18 Vectors                                 | 18 Indices and standard form             |
| 19 Direct and inverse proportion           | 19 Similarity and vectors                |
|  | 20 Graphs of complex equations           |

What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

Daydream revision guides:

These pocket sized, very colourful and easy to read revision guides are available periodically from the Mathematics I.G.L.U (See Mrs Burman).



## What are the key websites that my child could use?

Websites that are used depend on the topics that are being delivered and these include:

<https://.vle.mathswatch.co.uk>

<http://mathsapp.pixl.org.uk>

[www.gcsebitesize.co.uk](http://www.gcsebitesize.co.uk)

There are two main websites that the Mathematics Department uses. The PiXL Mathematics application is a brilliant way for students to choose their own topic to study and it tracks usage to build up an overview of progress over time. Mathswatch is exactly as it says on the tin. It is a website with videos of Mathematics topics being delivered by Mathematics specialists. There are also worksheets that students can print out to either consolidate or extend their understanding of any topic of their choice alongside many interactive questions. Students are encouraged to bring completed worksheets to discuss with their teachers (to either get further help or simply some recognition of their hard work and progress).

The PiXL application is available as a free download from all app stores and Mathswatch is usable on all internet browsers (including PCs, iPads, Android tablets, Smartphones).

## What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Mathematics?

One great motivational booster is to research the qualifications required for your child's intended future career and potential college courses. A better Mathematics grade usually means a college course can be started on a higher level or entry. Poor Mathematics grades will block entry to many professions. Working on the Mathswatch website or PiXL application can help independent learning of topics highlighted in your child's latest Mathematics Personal Learning Checklist (PLC).

## What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Homework tasks will vary throughout the year. Homework may be in many forms: revision for an assessment (either the next STEP test or Mock Exam); exam style questions or consolidation/extension questions. The homework will vary on time and how long a student has to complete it. Teachers will set homework which will require internet access, but alternative ways of completing homework are always offered as students will always be given a week to complete these assignments and the Mathematics room with the ICT suite is open Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday lunchtimes for homework.

## When will my child be doing coursework, Controlled Assessments, assignments or other important assessments and how long will these take?

There is no coursework or Controlled Assessment in GCSE Mathematics. The entire GCSE is based on three examinations at the end of Year 11 (worth an equal amount each). Paper One is a non-calculator paper and Paper Two and Paper Three are calculator papers.

## Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in Mathematics?

It is important that you encourage your child to try and work independently yet when they seek advice assist them where possible. Also allow your child to take responsibility for their work and show you examples of work that they are proud of.

Encouraging your child to revise their work on a regular basis will help them prepare for exams.

A calculator is needed for two of the examinations. If the Higher paper is taken, this needs to be a scientific calculator - which is the type we would recommend for both tiers of entry. The type of scientific calculator used by the Mathematics Department is the Casio FX-83GTPLUS which is usually available for under £10 (although they can often be found cheaper at the start of a new academic year).

### What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in Mathematics and when are they?

After each assessment students are provided with a detailed Personalised Learning Checklist (PLC) which is colour coded. Green indicates your child is secure at the topic, Yellow indicates that your child requires some consolidation of the topic, and Red indicates that your child needs to address their knowledge and understanding of the topic. Students are encouraged to refer to their PLC after each assessment to look for areas to develop and see members of the Mathematics team if they need support or assistance of any kind.

Mrs Burman will be working with many students over the year with small groups of 1 to 4 students and she is able to help with many aspects of study support including revision skills.

### If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in Mathematics, who should I contact and how?

Please contact:

Mr S Musgrave (Second in department) - [Musgrave.s@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk](mailto:Musgrave.s@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk)

Mrs A Burman (Mathematics Teacher) - [Burman.a@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk](mailto:Burman.a@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk)

Miss C Lovell (Mathematics Teacher) - [Lovell.c@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk](mailto:Lovell.c@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk)

Mr E Wraith (Mathematics Teacher) - [Wraith.e@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk](mailto:Wraith.e@wintertoncommunityacademy.co.uk)

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN ENGLISH?

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### What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

Whilst traditionally Y9 is a KS3 group, we are taking this opportunity to use the time to prepare students more thoroughly for the exams they will sit in KS4. Throughout the course of Year 9, all students will complete an initial unit of work focusing on non-fiction reading skills. Students will also study literature texts in preparation for further study in Y10 and Y11. In addition to this, there will be assessments for the Spoken Language Endorsement as well as the Reading and Writing components - although the Reading and Writing will be assessed through exam style questions and a final exam in the summer term.

### What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

The class texts that we use and that may be of benefit to students at home are:

AQA G.C.S.E. English and English Language Basic Skills, Peter Buckroyd, ISBN: 978-0-435151-30-0

AQA G.C.S.E. English and English Language Achieve a C, Peter Buckroyd, ISBN: 978-0-435118-14-3

AQA G.C.S.E. English and English Language Achieve a C, Peter Buckroyd, ISBN: 978-0-435118-12-9

Up Grade - How to achieve a C and above in G.C.S.E. AQA English, Peter Buckroyd, ISBN: 978-0-435118-58-7

Collins Revision Guide New GCSE English/ English Language Higher/Foundation ISBN:978-0-00-734100-9

In addition, there is a range of CGP revision books - these are affordable revision guides that focus on specific examination techniques and skills.

### What are the key websites that my child could use?

The G.C.S.E. Bitesize website has up-to-date revision and independent study material.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/>

The AQA English resource zone is also an invaluable means to find out more about the specifications and suggests further support links. [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

### What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in English?

A major contributing factor to success and enjoyment in English is to encourage students to become active readers. Therefore, providing your son / daughter with a wide range of interesting and engaging reading material is a really good starting point. Furthermore, I would encourage you to talk to your son / daughter about their learning and the work they are undertaking in lessons.

### What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Homework tasks will vary between teaching groups, dependent on the time of year and the assessments that the students are preparing for. Homework could take one of many forms: learning spellings; revision for an exam; preparation for spoken language or written assessments; research for a piece of writing or a poem; or perhaps an extension of the classwork completed.

### When will my child be doing coursework, Controlled Assessments, assignments or other important assessments and how long will these take?

There is no longer any coursework to complete in English. Although there are no formal assessments required at this stage for GCSE, students will complete assessments throughout the year and will have a final exam in the summer term. All assessments will be conducted in school under 'controlled conditions' these are spread across the year and start in late October and finish in July.

## What after school or other extra-curricular activities are available in English and when are they?

There is an extensive range of intervention and extra-curricular opportunities planned and available to all Year 9 students. In addition, all staff operate very informal 'drop in' sessions whereby students who feel they need extra support or time with their teacher can 'drop in' at breaks or lunchtimes.

## Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in English?

Students are routinely assessed for their ability to spell, punctuate and paragraph accurately. Therefore having access to a good dictionary at home and a thesaurus will provide your son/daughter with opportunities to check and correct spellings or to search for more varied and ambitious vocabulary.

## How do you celebrate success in English?

Staff within the department are keen to speak to parents of students that are making good progress and to celebrate that success with students and parents. Vivos are awarded to students for a range of categories. In addition, subject prizes are awarded in the school's annual prize giving ceremony.

## If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in English who should I contact and how?

The English Department at Winterton encourages parental contact and therefore all subject teachers are happy to speak with parents about a student's progress. If parents would like to speak directly to the Subject Leader, Mrs B Martin (Head of Department) can be contacted via the school office.

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN SCIENCE?

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### What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

In Year 9 students will be exploring topics in each subject area to a greater depth.

Topics for Biology include: Plants and photosynthesis, health and disease, variation and inheritance

Topics for Chemistry include: Elements, compounds and mixtures, reactions of acids and alkalis, properties of materials and rocks.

Topics for Physics include: moments; universe and space; forces; electricity; energy

After Christmas, students will be completing KS4 units of work so that they can begin courses earlier and allow extra time for revision and consolidation in Year 11.

### What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

Students are following the AQA Trilogy course if they do not opt for separate Sciences, or if they do opt to complete separate Science GCSE's they will be well advised to purchase revision guides from CGP specifically for the AQA courses.

### What are the key websites that my child could use?

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks3bitesize)

[www.emaths.co.uk](http://www.emaths.co.uk) (good for past exam papers in Maths and Science)

[www.docbrown.info/](http://www.docbrown.info/)

[www.chemactive.com](http://www.chemactive.com)

[www.freezeray.com](http://www.freezeray.com)

[phet.colorado.edu](http://phet.colorado.edu)

[www.cyberphysics.co.uk](http://www.cyberphysics.co.uk)

[www.yacapaca.com](http://www.yacapaca.com)

### What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Science?

To develop a greater interest within the subject encourage your child to read around the subject (newspapers and New Scientist are good for new technologies), ask questions of you or their teachers, and also watch topical science programmes. (There are many really good programmes from different scientific perspectives, such as Myth-Busters, National Geographic, Wonders of the Solar System, Walking with the Dinosaurs, Life - David Attenborough, forensic programmes, engineering programmes - allow your child to select those that interest them.) All of these programmes can be used from age 11 up to and including GCSE.

### What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Homework tasks will vary throughout the year. Homework may be in many forms: revision for an assessment (an end of unit test); exam-style SATS questions; consolidation questions; preparing a presentation; group discussion; producing a personalised revision guide; researching new technology and explaining it.

Teachers may set homework which could require internet access, but alternative ways of completing homework are always offered, e.g. school ICT club/ teacher support/ library/ on-line in school.

After Easter, your child will be completing introductory units for GCSE. These will need to be kept in a safe place for Year 10.

### When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

Students will be assessed at the end of each topic. Before Christmas they will complete final assessments which will determine their sets for the GCSE courses. Only students who achieve the highest grades will be eligible to opt for separate Sciences due to the great demands of the course in terms of challenge and volume of learning that this entails.

Students are expected to attend a support session after these assessments if they demonstrate under-performance. Please encourage your child to attend these and discuss their work with him or her. This is not optional, and students should regard this as supporting their progress; it is not a punishment.

### What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in Science and when are they?

Students are encouraged to see members of staff if they need to ask for support or assistance at any stage; suitable notice will need to be given if a child requires intensive support.

After any assessment, students are always invited to attend intervention/ support sessions; they are expected to attend these sessions so that they can understand how to improve their grades.

### Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in Science?

It is important that you encourage your child to try and work independently yet when they seek advice assist them where possible. Also allow your child to take responsibility for their work and show you examples of work that they are proud of.

Encouraging your child to revise their theory work on a regular basis will help students prepare for exams. There are many excellent on-line resources, but these should not exclude personal revision.

Discuss interesting topics with your child, and encourage them to form opinions about new technology, and to consider the wider impact of new developments.

Using the internet can be very helpful, but only if used in the right way. Encourage your child to select appropriate resources for KS3 and not complete a random search for key words. Information found should always be processed and condensed into a usable format.

### How do you celebrate success in Science?

Comments in journal can be used in order to warrant a quick response. Teachers may also use stickers on good pieces of work. We are looking to extend our praise and support of good work by using assemblies to celebrate the progress and success of individual students.

### If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in Science, who should I contact and how?

Contact your child's teacher initially, or contact Miss K Hough or Mr K Hagerup.

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN ART

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### What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

The main emphasis throughout Year 9 is to build on the students' knowledge and understanding of the formal elements studied in Years 7 and 8 further developing the formal elements of Line, Form, Pattern and Texture, looking at how these elements have been used in a variety of art forms. Students will be encouraged to develop their creativity and individuality of expression in 2D and 3D form.

### What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

If your child wishes to take their work home, an A3 plastic folder will help keep the work dry and in good condition.

A visit to the local library to borrow research information.

A range of art materials (e.g. soft pencils, water soluble crayons, water paints, brushes).

### What are the key websites that my child could use?

Most artists, museums and galleries have their own websites which can be accessed via Google, etc. (e.g. Gaudi, Lichtenstein, Warhol, Paolozzi, Tate Modern, Victoria and Albert Museum...)

[www.artchive.com](http://www.artchive.com)

### What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Art?

Any opportunity you can provide for your son/daughter to visit any art gallery or museums to view original artwork would be beneficial. The nearest include Ropewalk in Barton on Humber, 20/21 Gallery in Scunthorpe, Usher Gallery in Lincoln, Ferens Gallery in Hull.

### What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Homework is set once every two weeks to consolidate and develop the skills and knowledge gained in class. This may take the form of researching a particular artist or subject matter or observational drawing in their sketchbooks.

### When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

All students during Key Stage 3 are continually assessed throughout each project. These levels are fed back to the students on a regular basis so they can improve on levels as the topic progresses.

### What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in Art and when are they?

Both Art rooms operate 'drop-in' sessions every lunchtime for students to do extra work and receive additional help where required.

### Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in Art?

Encourage your child to be open-minded and have discussions based on different aspects of art. Questions you might ask include:

- That looks interesting, how did you get that effect?
- Why did you choose those colours?
- What are you most proud of in this piece of work?

Support your child with their art homework, encourage them to work independently and to take pride in what they have achieved.



### How do you celebrate success in Art?

Congratulatory letters are sent to inform parents when students make outstanding progress. Comments are also recorded in the students` journals to celebrate artistic successes. In addition, subject prizes for achievement and progress are awarded in the school`s annual prize-giving ceremony.

### If I need to speak to someone about my child`s progress in Art who should I contact and how?

Mrs C Johnson (Subject Leader) Mrs S Blackburn (Teacher) Mrs A Purdon (Teacher) via the school office.

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (FOOD, TEXTILES, RESISTANT MATERIALS OR PRODUCT DESIGN)?

### What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

Throughout the year students will cover a variety of projects and will take part in 2 units of design and technology in Resistant Materials and one unit of design and technology in both Food and Textiles. Each unit will consist of 8-9 weeks with students spending 2 lessons per week in each design and technology area. To enable a smooth flow and access to the correct equipment each 8-9 weeks unit of design and technology will be on a rotation basis. All students will use a marking/booster sheet on their project work where students will receive direct individual targets relating to what they need to do to improve and focus on.

- **The projects that will be covered in Resistant Materials are:-**

Automated toy- Designing and making automata is an exciting hobby, students will cover a range of skills and processes from Art, Engineering and Science, through to Craft Skills involving card, wood and metal to produce their own Automata.

Enterprise-Students will be expected to develop their product design skills in designing to develop a new and exciting product for a chosen target market that they can take to manufacture.

Computer control- Students will focus on learning about flow diagrams and how products use computer control sequences.

- **The projects that will be covered in Food are:-** Multi cultural family meals

- **The projects that will be covered in Textiles are:-** Design and make an original hat using a variety of new construction methods and utilising the techniques and processes learned in Year 7 and Year 8.

### What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

There are no books directly related to the projects that we will cover during the Design and Technology programme. However, there are many books available that will help students during Key Stage 3 Technology.

Some of the books available are-

#### **Resistant Materials -**

Design and Technology Foundations Resistant Materials - Author, Paul Anderson/Jeff Draisey.

Key Stage 3 Design and Technology: Resistant Materials (Design in the Making) - Author, Steve Cushing.

Skills in Resistant Materials Technology Student Book - Author, Peter Gale.

#### **Food Technology -**

Design and Make It! Student's Book: Food Technology for Key Stage 3 - Author, Hazel King.

All About Food - Author, Helen McGrath.

#### **Textiles -**

Design and Make it: Textiles Technology for Key Stage 3 (Design & Make It!) - Author, Alex MCGarthur

### What are the key websites that my child could use?

Some of the recommended websites are:-

The school's own web portal which is available from the main intranet page -

[www.technologystudent.com/](http://www.technologystudent.com/)

[www.techsoft.co.uk/](http://www.techsoft.co.uk/)

[www.engineering.com/](http://www.engineering.com/)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Design\\_and\\_Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Design_and_Technology)

<http://www.nutritionprogram.co.uk/>

### What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Design Technology?

We would appreciate it if you could encourage your child to be open to new design ideas and research methods and be adventurous with their designs and look for areas for improvement in designs that already exist.

We also run many extracurricular clubs in Design Technology that are both beneficial to their technology work as well as being enjoyable. Take time out to see when your next club is on. Some of the clubs we run are listed in the extracurricular section below.

Games are also a very useful addition to this subject too. Students are particularly enthusiastic in games, particularly ones that mean they are playing on a computer. There are many websites (e.g. engineering.com) where playing games can actually build and promote a student's skill and knowledge.

### What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Homework tasks will, as in Year 8, vary throughout the year but students will typically receive one piece of technology homework per lesson per week. Homeworks in general will be research or design based and can be either handwritten or computer processed (inc. access to the internet), but other methods of completing homework are always offered. The Technology suite of rooms is available for use by all students completing homework during lunchtimes (Monday - Friday).

### When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

All students during Year 9 are continually assessed throughout each project. The grades are then recorded and fed back to the students regularly on their individual making/booster sheet. Students are then allowed to improve these levels as the project progresses.

### What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in design technology and when are they?

Master Chef - Develop your skills and compete to become the best chef in Year 9.

After school cookery club.

Textiles - Develop and progress your skills in Design and Technology Textiles.

### Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in design technology?

It is important that we encourage your child to try and work independently yet when they seek advice to assist them when and where possible. It is important that students take responsibility for their own work and show you examples of their work (both written and practical) that they are proud of.

To help support your child to make improvements to their work please encourage them to revise and revisit areas of work covered on a regular basis to look for areas of improvement.

Please also ensure your child brings to lessons food ingredients, textiles, etc. where necessary.

### How do you celebrate success in Design Technology?

In Technology we celebrate success by Student of the Week nominees by individual class teachers in order to reward outstanding classwork. Comments are also recorded in the students' journals and can also be used in order to give a response. Teachers will give Vivos as part of the whole school reward system or stickers on worthy pieces of work. On particular tasks we will also give out prizes or certificates. The students will be awarded any prizes by the Head Teacher or Head of Year in assemblies or prize-giving occasions.

### If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in Design Technology, who should I contact and how?

If you need to speak to someone regarding your child's progress you can contact either-

Head of Department - Mr P Singleton and Mrs C Johnson

Or if it is a specific question relating to a particular query/lesson, ask to speak to your child's subject teacher.

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN GEOGRAPHY?

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**What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?**

Autumn 1 Tohoku Tsunami

Autumn 2 Serious Stuff

From Spring Begin GCSE Geography course OCR Syllabus B, “Enquiring Minds: Population and Urban Areas”

**What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?**

An atlas, a globe, KS3 studies guide, compass, weather station, wall map of world/UK for bedroom and a local OS map.

**What are the key websites that my child could use?**

The BBC website. YouTube has many clips explaining natural processes. Most web searches will return information on places when researching.

**What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Geography?**

Encourage your child to take an interest in BBC travel, nature and current affairs documentaries, all current affairs programming including The News, world fact books, maps and atlases, local walks, local events and activities, holidays, debating and discussion of people’s opinions.

**What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?**

Homework may involve critically analysing and evaluating a source, researching into a particular event or person, reading about an event or person, assessing a piece of classwork and improving it or producing a written account/essay about an event.

Geographical investigations will require extensive research and note making to support classwork and will take place over several weeks.

**When will my child be doing coursework, controlled assessments, assignments or other important assessments and how long will these take?**

An assessment will be taken once each half-term for a topic. The Geographical Investigation is to be completed over 6 weeks, the assessment of which measures the majority of skills developed at Key Stage 3.

**What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in Geography and when are they?**

Support is available at lunchtimes and afterschool on most Wednesdays.

**Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in Geography?**

Encourage your child to be open-minded and develop mature arguments that support their point of view.

**How do you celebrate success in Geography?**

Teachers will give Vivos as part of the whole school reward system or stickers on worthy pieces of work. Postcards are sent home if students complete an exceptional piece of work, make outstanding progress.

**If I need to speak to someone about my child’s progress in Geography, who should I contact and how?**

Mrs C Miller, Mr M Florence and Mr R Wharton are available through the school office.

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN HISTORY?

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What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

- What impact did the Transatlantic Slave Trade have on the lives of African Americans?
- How successful was the Civil Rights Movement in the USA?
- Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and dictatorship

What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

It is not necessary to buy any specific resources for the subject. We do not teach to one specific textbook and use a variety of sources within lessons. You can encourage your child to research different topics studied in class by visiting their local library to find books on specific topics as well as internet-based research. YouTube contains lots of clips and compilations about different historical periods and original footage in the form of documentaries and news clips of 20<sup>th</sup> century historical events.

What are the key websites that my child could use?

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids/)  
[www.schoolhistory.co.uk/lessons/](http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/lessons/)  
[www.historyonthenet.com/](http://www.historyonthenet.com/)

What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in History?

- Historical films.
- Visits to sites of interest such as the Royal Armouries in Leeds.
- Visits to museums such as Wilberforce House Museum in Hull.
- Historical books.
- Local history groups.
- Discussion.

What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Homework may involve analysing and evaluating a historical source, researching into a particular event or person, reading about an event or person, assessing a piece of classwork and improving it or producing a written account/essay about an event.

When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

Assessments are usually held every half-term and they focus upon key historical skills such as source skills, significance, cause and consequence.

What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in History and when are they?

There are opportunities for pupils to attend IT and homework clubs throughout the year.

### Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in History?

Review their exercise books with them and encourage them to respond to teacher comments about how to improve their work. Encourage further reading and study into the topics covered. Share your knowledge of the past.

### How do you celebrate success in History?

Teachers will give Vivos as part of the whole school reward system which will be used to convey instances of good/outstanding progress. In addition, letters of praise are sent to parents to inform them when students make outstanding progress or have high levels of achievement.

### If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in History, who should I contact and how?

In the first instance contact your child's class teacher or Mr P Davies (Subject Leader)

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN ICT?

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### What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

Students will have timetabled one ICT / Computing lesson per fortnight. As well as teaching traditional ICT study skills (presentations, word processing, etc.) students will have the opportunity to learn more about coding and computational thinking. In year 9 students will study:

- How data is stored in computer files as binary data and how this data encodes sound and image files
- Further work on computer algorithms incorporating design and evaluation. Students will also study various sorting algorithms.
- Logical reasoning used to decompose problems in computing.
- How to program in Python and pseudocode.
- The use of Boolean logic in computer programs and electrical systems.
- How computer networks are set up (topologies)

### What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

The most common computer programs used in school are the *Microsoft Office* programs.

It is always worth checking the Android and iPhone 'apps market' for useful tools and revision guides that can be used.

The following websites contain valuable resources:

[www.kerboodle.com](http://www.kerboodle.com)

[www.teach-ict.com](http://www.teach-ict.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ict](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ict)

[www.bigambition.co.uk](http://www.bigambition.co.uk)

### What are the key websites that my child could use?

There are many internet resources that can be accessed to help students with their ICT development. Many of these are free or have a small charge. These include:

- Audacity: A free sound recording and editing program
- Microsoft Movie Maker: Create movies from photos or video
- Microsoft storyboard: Present your photos more creatively
- Scratch: A free computer programming interface
- Python IDE: A free program for writing computer code in python.

There are many more useful tools out there that can be found with creative searching. Further useful tools that we find will be updated regularly.

**In addition, all students have access to all the Microsoft Office programs through Office 365.**

It is worth taking time to read advanced search techniques on websites like Google. If used correctly it may help students from relying too much on *Wikipedia* for information.

### What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in ICT?

ICT is in itself a motivational tool to support learning in all subjects. Please check information given by other subject areas to see what they recommend.

Some of the programs mentioned in the useful websites section are much more interesting to use than the standard presentation programs. Please encourage your children to try them; you may enjoy them yourself.

## What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Homework tasks will vary throughout the year but students will typically receive one per week. The time taken to complete homework may vary depending on individual projects/tasks. Homeworks in general will be research or design based and can be either handwritten or computer processed (inc. access to the internet), but other methods of completing homework are always offered. The ICT suite of rooms is available for use of all students completing homework during lunchtimes (Monday - Friday).

## When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

Students will continually be assessed through classwork and homework. Students will also complete an ICT assessment every term.

## What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in ICT and when are they?

Access to the ICT suites is available every lunchtime Monday to Friday - 12:20 - 12:55 in IT 1. We shall have the internet cafe open during the summer term.

In addition, the school is developing the role of a group of students - '*The Digital Leaders*' - who will support the development of ICT skills across the school.

## Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in ICT?

It is important that we encourage your child to try and work independently, yet when they seek advice to assist them when and where possible. It is important that students take responsibility for their own work and show you examples of their work (both written and practical) that they are proud of.

To help support your child to make improvements to their work please encourage them to revise and revisit areas of work covered on a regular basis to look for areas of improvement.

## How do you celebrate success in ICT?

Teachers will give Vivos as part of the whole school reward system which will be used to convey instances of good/outstanding progress. In addition, letters of praise are sent to parents to inform them when students make outstanding progress or have high levels of achievement.

## If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in ICT, who should I contact and how?

Mr M Sidell - Head of ICT



## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN MUSIC?

What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

| Autumn Term                                      | Spring Term                                       | Summer Term                                       |
|--|---|---|
| Unit 12: Song Writing<br>Unit 13: Cover Versions | Unit 14: The Blues<br>Unit 15: From Blues to Jazz | Unit 16: Rap<br>Unit 17: Music for Special Events |

What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

It is not necessary to buy any specific resources for the subject. Lessons are practical in nature and so students learn through participating. Some students practise their keyboard skills on a keyboard at home, but it is not necessary to purchase an instrument as departmental keyboards are available for use at breaks and lunchtimes.

What are the key websites that my child could use?

[www.kenbrashear.com/](http://www.kenbrashear.com/) - virtual drum kit

[worldmusic.miningco.com/](http://worldmusic.miningco.com/) - information on world music and downloadable music clips

[www.pianoworld.com/fun/javapiano/javapiano.htm](http://www.pianoworld.com/fun/javapiano/javapiano.htm) - interactive keyboard

What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Music?

Any opportunity you can provide for your son/daughter to listen to live music (amateur or professional) will be beneficial. I would also encourage you to talk to your son/daughter about their learning and the work they are undertaking in lessons. Students' practical work is recorded at the end of each unit so you will be able to listen to examples of their creativity.

What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Homework is set when appropriate every two weeks to consolidate the skills and knowledge gained in class. This may take the form of researching a particular style or genre, evaluating a practical activity, revising keywords, etc. The amount of time to be spent on homework will vary according to the nature of the task.

When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

Assessments are usually held every half-term. Composing, performing or listening skills may be the focus of the assessment.

What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in Music and when are they?

| MONDAY          | TUESDAY                       | WEDNESDAY                                | THURSDAY        | FRIDAY          |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| 12.00pm-12.30pm | 12.00pm-12.30pm               | 12.00pm-12.30pm                          | 12.00pm-12.30pm | 12.00pm-12.30pm |
| ORCHESTRA       | JUNIOR CHOIR<br>(Years 7 & 8) | SENIOR CHOIR<br>(Years 9 - 11,<br>staff) | WIND BAND       | STRING BAND     |

Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in Music?

Encourage your child to listen critically to the music they listen to every day. Also, you may want your child to have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in school. Tuition is provided by the Music Support Service and covers string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.

### How do you celebrate success in Music?

Teachers will give Vivos as part of the whole school reward system which will be used to convey instances of good/outstanding progress. In addition, subject prizes and Music Merit Certificates are awarded in the school's annual prize-giving ceremony. The school's annual Spring Concert also showcases students' outstanding performances and compositions.

### If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in Music, who should I contact and how?

Please contact:

Mrs J Watson (Subject Leader - Music and Musical Performance) via the school office.

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES?

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### What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

September - October: talking about TV programmes, cinema and films, reading and books, weekend activities, the past tense

November - December: future life plans, future jobs and career plans, using languages

January - February: describing illnesses, health and fitness, diet, sport, giving advice

March: describing other people and friends, understanding a detailed story in the past tense

April - May: holidays, travel & tourism, accommodation, a region in France

June - July: education, world of work, young people's lives in other countries, issues of poverty, religion in France and human rights.

### What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

- Students use the Expo 3 textbook, which is published by Heinemann. Our N, T and E groups use the 'Vert' textbook and our I / W groups use the 'Rouge' textbooks. Due to our books being required for use in school, we are unable to give our books to students for use at home.
- It will be useful for your child to have access to a French-English dictionary at home. A small, simple dictionary is appropriate for Year 9.
- Pupils in W who study two languages would benefit from a German-English dictionary too.
- Bookshops and local libraries often stock copies of Key Stage 3 Study or Homework guides for French and/or German.

### What are the key websites that my child could use?

- [www.bbc.co.uk/schools](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools) The site includes interactive games on a variety of the Year 8 topics.
- [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) A very helpful website which can help with vocabulary building, grammar practice and comprehension skills.
- [www.momes.net](http://www.momes.net) A French website designed for younger students, includes film reviews, songs, and stories.
- [www.zut.org.uk](http://www.zut.org.uk) This website is free after 4pm and has lots of games and interactive quizzes to build vocabulary skills.
- [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com) This website is excellent for revision of topic based vocab - just search the topic by name (e.g. pets in French, "Ma famille") or by book and module number (e.g. Expo 1 Module 1) for different exercises. This is also useful for other subjects. Available as a free app too.
- [www.samlearning.com](http://www.samlearning.com) All pupils have their own username and password for this website (ask their teacher or tutor for help if they do not know theirs). Teachers often use this website to set specific homework tasks, but pupils can also browse and revise topics freely. Centre ID is DN15WC.

### What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Modern Foreign Languages?

A lot of parents find it difficult to support and encourage their children in MFL. Maybe they did not learn a language themselves at school or even learnt a different one. This sometimes leads to misunderstandings and misconceptions about learning a language. Try to encourage a positive approach:

- When learning a language, you develop valuable skills, such as increased memory power and the ability to learn and apply rules. The skills picked up in languages help with other subjects, such as communication skills, creativity and the development of independent learning skills.
- Learning about another country, even if they never visit that country, will broaden minds and allow students to see their country as part of the wider world.
- Why not watch a favourite film in a foreign language? Most DVDs have language audio options, have French audio, with English subtitles.
- As France is our closest neighbour, there are always opportunities to practise with native speakers and make the language seem more 'real'.
- Think ahead to future careers: a recent government report has shown that people with language skills have more opportunities in the job market.

- Think ahead to future studies: many universities now require their applicants to have a qualification in a language.
- Have a go at learning (or revising!) French, Spanish or German with your child. Alternatively, why not try out a new language together, for example, learning some Spanish together before a family holiday?

## What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Along with other departments we set homework regularly. Your child will usually be set homework once a week. The guiding principle in learning a language is “little and often”, therefore don’t expect your child to be completing long, written tasks in their foreign language! Your child may be asked to complete reading exercises, some grammar tasks or short pieces of writing. We often ask students to do a learning homework where they are expected to learn and remember some key vocabulary, or a research homework to find out some new vocabulary.

If your child completes tasks quickly, you could encourage them to do some tasks on the Quizlet and Samlearning websites. Every piece of homework is rooted in points that have been covered during lessons and will have been described thoroughly. Students also have their own vocabulary book to use in school and at home to help them with homework.

## When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

Your child will be assessed at the end of each half-term. Their assessments are based on the topics covered that term and will assess their Reading and Listening skills and either their Writing or Speaking skill. These are formal assessments and your child’s teacher will record their results/levels. Students also record the results from their assessments in their exercise books.

## What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in Modern Foreign Languages and when are they?

As a department, we offer a MFL Film Club during lunch once a week (for details see the Languages display boards). This club is open to any students in KS3 and KS4 who would like to watch foreign films. Our MFL Ambassadors can even help students with homework or provide some one-to-one support for anyone struggling with a particular topic.

## Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in Modern Foreign Languages?

We appreciate that many parents find it difficult to help their child with their language studies, but even with limited or no knowledge of a foreign language, you can make a difference:

- For vocabulary learning, you can be really helpful by testing your child. You can do this by taking their exercise books and asking for the words, one at a time.
- Encourage your child to teach you some of the language they are currently learning. Of course your child will only be able to teach you something as they learn it themselves, so you could get them to tell you what they have been learning recently and to show you their book when they bring it home for homework. This is a good review for them and it keeps you up to date too.
- If your child is stuck with a piece of homework (and if you have time!) ask them to explain what they are supposed to do and see if you can move them on. It is quite common for children to get stuck on one part of a homework and then give up rather than leaving that part and trying the next bit. Please encourage them to speak to their teacher if they are totally unclear about what to do.
- Help your child to practise saying the alphabet in French / German / Spanish so that they can pronounce the language more accurately.
- Help your child to read and understand written texts. For example, different sound-spelling rules apply in French (e.g. the silent ‘s’ at the end of words, the nasal sounds of ‘en’, ‘an’, etc.) and careful reading and repeating of written texts will reinforce correct pronunciation.
- Singing in a different language can help to develop self-confidence, as children focus on the music and rhythm rather than worrying about the pronunciation.

Children enjoy the challenge of learning and practising new language on their own. Although they need support and encouragement initially, they progress to become independent, autonomous learners. Soon they are able to work alone with a computer and dictionary, developing their language skills and knowledge in the same way they do for other subjects.

### How do you celebrate success in Modern Foreign Languages?

- Teachers will give Vivos as part of the whole school reward system which will be used to convey instances of good/outstanding progress.
- Teachers may write a message in their journal or send a praise postcard home.

### If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in Modern Foreign Languages, who should I contact and how?

Everyone in the Languages department wants students to feel confident about learning languages and to be enthusiastic and keen to speak a language. If you pick up from your child that all is not well and they are unsure of what they are doing, please contact us. Often the problems are small ones which can be easily solved. We may not be able to speak to you immediately if we have a full teaching day but if you leave a message with the school reception we will get back to you as soon as we can.

People to contact:

- your child's language teacher in the first instance.
- your child's form tutor, who can pass on the message.
- Mrs E Wadge, Subject Leader for MFL.

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

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**What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?**

Students cover 2 different activities each half-term, unless they are in 9W and they undertake 1. They participate in team sports including Netball, Football, Hockey, and Rugby during the first term. This is followed by a range of individual activities including Badminton, Fitness, OAA and Athletics. Alongside this there will be opportunities for students to take on officiating and leadership roles in a variety of activities. 9W - Hockey, Badminton, Basketball, Fitness, OAA, Athletics Rounders and Cross-Country

**What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?**

Books that cover the rules and regulations of the different activities will always benefit your child's knowledge and understanding of the activities. However, participating in these activities alongside your child will enable their skill levels to develop at a much faster rate.

**What are the key websites that my child could use?**

[www.bbc.co.uk/sport](http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport)

There are many clips available on YouTube to watch particular skills or matches.

**What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Physical Education?**

Encourage your child to be active and to spend time 'playing' rather than sitting inside in front of a computer! Visit the leisure centre with your child and get involved in activities with them or, if possible, take them to watch live sports events as and when they are available.

**What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?**

Students may get set 1 piece of homework for each unit of work that will be research based.

**When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?**

Your child will participate in ongoing weekly assessments and will receive oral feedback in lessons. However, during week 4 students will undertake a short written evaluation and set themselves a specific target. They will in turn receive teacher feedback in order to help them achieve their target. Again on week 8: the final lesson within the unit students will review their progress and their participation within the unit as a whole.

**What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in Physical Education and when are they?**

The extracurricular timetable changes every half-term and offers all students the opportunity to practice and develop new skills taught in lessons. The activities also enable student to try new sports and recreational activities that differ from those taught in lessons. Alongside this, students get the opportunity to join teams and represent the school in fixtures and tournaments against other schools.

**Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in Physical Education?**

Encourage regular participation in all PE lessons and remind your child to bring the correct PE kit.

**How do you celebrate success in Physical Education?**

Postcards are sent home by class teachers every six weeks.

**If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in Physical Education, who should I contact and how?**

Mrs A Dalowsky via the main school office.

## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN PSHCE? (PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH, CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION)

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What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

In year 9 students will be completing four separate units of work. Two units will be based on Citizenship and two units will cover PSHCE topics.

The units that are covered in Year 9 are:

### Citizenship: Liberty and freedom

- What sort of country do we want to live in?
- Democracy and freedom
- Human rights
- Voting age
- Importance of education
- How free should the press be?
- Right to campaign
- Racism
- Refugees

### Citizenship: Law

- Types of government
- Manifestos
- Manifestos
- Elections and voting
- Parliament and Government
- Making laws
- What do MP's do?
- Local and regional government

### PSHCE: Me, Myself and the Law

- Body image
- Bully or banter
- Resilience
- Peer pressure
- Self esteem
- Sex and gender issues
- Consent
- Positive relationships
- Sexting

### PSHCE: Wider Issues

- Online grooming
- Stereotyping
- LGBT homophobia
- Disability
- Safe sex
- STI's
- Radicalisation
- Drug awareness
- Drugs and the law

What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

Resources are not needed to be purchased, they will be provided in lessons.

## What are the key websites that my child could use?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/>

<https://www.pshe-association.org.uk>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

[www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)

[www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online](http://www.safetynetkids.org.uk/personal-safety/staying-safe-online)

<https://saferinternet.org.uk>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

There are many clips of PSHCE related topics available on YouTube.

## What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in PSHCE?

Encourage your child to think critically about issues and to try and evaluate opinions and reasons for things. This will develop more in-depth and critical approaches to issues, whilst at the same time have an open mind that other people have different opinions and attitudes than their own.

Try to encourage conversations based on current issues in the news or their own lives.

## What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Students should expect to receive homework in PSHCE. Due to the nature of the subject most of the learning will be covered during lessons. Homework will often consist of researching in to laws and core knowledge around different topics. Homework, will often require students to discuss their learning with parents/carers.

## When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

Your child will not be levelled assessed in PSHCE. Instead we will be using Personal Learning Checklists (PLC's) to monitor the progress your child is making. Students will be self- evaluating themselves at the start of each unit and again at the end to measure the progress they have made. After each rotation their class teacher will mark their work and verify the progress made on their PLC.

## What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in PSHCE and when are they?

All students are aware that lunchtimes are available for them to improve or develop their knowledge. Throughout the year the school has a range of cross curricular days which cover many core topics within PSHCE from experts. These include, the Police, Fire brigade, Big Talk (SRE), road safety specialist, anti-bullying musicians.

## Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in PSHCE?

Encourage your child to be open-minded and have discussions based key issues relating to them as an individual and their own life. Allow your child to watch the news once a day to understand modern issues such as discrimination, prejudice, racism and other topical affairs.

## How do you celebrate success in PSHCE?

Students who make exceptional progress will be sent a letter to celebrate their achievement. Your child's teacher will use Vivos as part of the whole school reward system which will be used to convey instances of good/outstanding progress in classwork or homework. If students have done a piece of work particularly well during a lesson, then they may receive a post card home. At the end of each year they are also chosen to receive an award for either the most progress made or the highest achieving student.

## If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in PSHCE, who should I contact and how?

Please contact Mr G Robbins (Subject Leader) via the school office.



## HOW DO I HELP MY CHILD SUCCEED IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

### What topics are you covering and when, so I can encourage my child to take a greater interest?

The students are going to begin a three year full course in Religious Studies. The specification we are going to follow at Winterton is the OCR GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies (J625). The following information explains in detail the focus of the work required for their first year.

OCR's GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies course has been designed to captivate learners with a coherent and engaging programme of study and to encourage them to progress to further study at A level and Higher Education. OCR's GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies will encourage learners to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to engage in debate and discussion about life in a modern pluralistic society. This includes developing an understanding of non-religious beliefs.

Students will be entered for three examinations at the end of year 11; one on Christianity, a second on Islam and the third will be based on religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective.

The core knowledge which will be taught is listed below.

#### Beliefs and teachings & Practices

Students should be able to:

- Nature of God
- Concepts of God as a Trinity of persons
- Biblical accounts of creation
- The problem of evil and suffering and a loving and righteous God
- Jesus Christ
- Incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension
- The concept of salvation
- Eschatological beliefs and teachings
- Worship
- Sacraments
- Prayer
- The role and importance of pilgrimage and celebrations to Christians
- The role of the church in the local community and living practices
- Mission
- The role of the church in the wider world

The core knowledge outlined above is everything your child will need for the first of three examinations. The knowledge for the second examination will be taught in year 10 and the third in year 11.

### What resources could I buy or borrow that will help my child?

Students should be encouraged to read books based on issues related to ethical issues. This will help them develop their breadth of understanding around modern issues of life. Newspapers are excellent sources that give different attitudes towards world and religious issues.

### What are the key websites that my child could use?

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/)

[www.reonline.org.uk](http://www.reonline.org.uk)

[www.request.org.uk](http://www.request.org.uk)

[www.revisioncentre.co.uk](http://www.revisioncentre.co.uk)

[www.rsrevision.com](http://www.rsrevision.com)

There are many clips of religious issues available on You Tube.

### What can I do to encourage my child to take further interest in Religious Studies?

Encourage your child to think critically about issues and to try and evaluate opinions and reasons for things. This will develop more in-depth and critical approaches to issues whilst at the same time have an open mind that other people have different opinions and attitudes than their own.

Try to encourage conversations based on current issues, such as racism and attitudes towards different faith communities and cultures around the world.

### What type of homework will my child have and how long should they spend on homework?

Students should expect to receive one homework every three lessons. Homework can range in approaches and timings to complete. They will receive homework asking for different opinions towards issues or specific topics, and should expect to receive one written form of homework asking them to demonstrate the learning they have achieved over the past two lessons. The final piece of homework is their assessment. They will always have a week to develop and complete their homework using the success criteria. On the success criteria sheet it will ask for a parent/carer's feedback (except for presentational assessments). This should give you the opportunity to help and see the most important pieces of work your child is creating.

### When will my child be doing assignments or other important assessments?

Your child will normally complete an assessment every six lessons. This works out at one every half-term. However, your child also receives a progress tracking sheet for each unit where they are responsible for tracking the quality of their own learning before assessments occur.

### What after school or other extracurricular activities are available in Religious Studies and when are they?

All students are aware that lunchtimes are available for them to improve or develop their knowledge. There is a debate club which students can attend one night after school. It will develop their speaking and communication skills. Students will have the opportunity to debate range of issues and topics.

### Is there anything else I can do to help my child succeed in Religious Studies?

Encourage your child to be open-minded and have discussions based on ethical and philosophical issues. Allow your child to watch the news once a day to understand modern issues such as discrimination, prejudice, racism and other topical affairs.

### How do you celebrate success in Religious Studies?

Students who make exceptional progress will be sent a letter to celebrate their achievement. At the end of each year they are also chosen to receive an award for either the most progress made or the highest achieving student.

### If I need to speak to someone about my child's progress in Religious Studies, who should I contact and how?

Please contact Mr G Robbins (Subject Leader) through the school office.