

Year 9 Information for Parents

INSPIRING AND SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS,
ENABLING THEM TO BECOME
CONFIDENT AND CAPABLE CITIZENS



We hope the information in this newsletter will provide you with some helpful information about Year 9. You will see from the details below that your child has mock exams in December and a revision booklet is included for you to discuss with your child. Two important dates next term are the Options Evening on 20th February and Academic Tutoring day on 6th March. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school, either by writing a note in your child's student planner, or by contacting the school via e-mail.

Miss J. Hicks,
Key Stage 3 Leader.

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| • Monday 11 th to Wednesday 13 th December | Mock Exams |
| • Wednesday 24 th January 2018 | Reports and Mock Results Issued |
| • Tuesday 20 th February | Options Information Evening |
| • Tuesday 27 th February | Careers Day |
| • Tuesday 6 th March | Academic Tutoring |
| • Friday 16 th March | Options Forms Deadline |
| • Friday 27 th April | Snapshots Issued |
| • Tuesday 15 th May | 'Learn to Earn' Day |
| • Tuesday 29 th to Thursday 31 st May | Core Exams |
| • Friday 29 th June | Year 9 end of Key Stage 3 report issued |
| • Monday 16 th to Thursday 19 th July | Enrichment Week |

IGCSE Mathematics

We want to give our students as many opportunities as possible to achieve their best results. By beginning Cambridge iGCSE Maths in Year 9, your child has additional time to study this important subject.

In November 2019, when your child is in Year 11, the vast majority of the year group will take iGCSE Maths. The results will be available in the spring term of 2020.

There are two entry options at iGCSE Maths:

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| Option 1 | Core | highest achievable grade | C | (C-G grades available) |
| Option 2 | Extended | highest achievable grade | A* | (A* - E grades available) |

The set your child is in will determine which of the two options below they are entered for:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 9E and Set 1 | Extended Option | GCSE grades A* - E available |
| Sets 2 and 3 | Core Option | GCSE grades C – G available |

In Years 9 and 10, students can move between sets if it is felt that they would be better placed taking a particular level of GCSE Maths. Some students will prefer to be ‘pushed’ to achieve higher levels, others may be better suited to aim for a grade C. Every child is different and decisions will be based on the level of work produced by students and the professional judgement of staff.

We will be encouraging students who are at C/B grade level and have higher target grades to do the Extended paper in Year 11 to improve their grade.

Grades C – G grades are awarded if your child takes Core iGCSE

| Component | | How long and how many marks | Skilled Assessed | Details | Percentage of the Qualification |
|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Core | Paper 1 (Short-answer) | 1 hour 56 marks | Mathematical techniques, applying mathematical techniques to solve problems | You are assessed on the core syllabus content using short-answer questions | 35% |
| | Paper 3 (Structured answers) | 2 hours 104 marks | Mathematical techniques, applying mathematical techniques to solve problems | You are assessed on the core syllabus content using structured answer questions | 65% |

Grades A* – E grades are awarded if your child takes Extended iGCSE

| Component | | How long and how many marks | Skilled Assessed | Details | Percentage of the Qualification |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Extended | Paper 2 (Short-answer) | 1.5 hours 70 marks | Mathematical techniques, applying mathematical techniques to solve problems | You are assessed on the extended syllabus content using short-answer questions | 35% |
| | Paper 4 (Structured answers) | 2.5 hours 130 marks | Mathematical techniques, applying mathematical techniques to solve problems | You are assessed on the extended syllabus content using structured answer questions | 65% |

How You Can Help Your Child in Maths

- Please make sure that your child has all of the required mathematical equipment, including a Casio scientific calculator and geometry set.
- Please ensure that homework is completed.
- The school's online learning platform 'itslearning' contains a wealth of resources that will help your child to develop mathematical skills. The website contains practice questions, past examination papers, and a host of other useful materials. (Entry code 31412)
- Revision textbooks will be available, as soon as they are published.
- Revision sessions will operate at various times during the year from Year 10 onwards. Details of when revision sessions will run will be published.

Key Contacts:

Faculty Leader of Maths: jessica.murphy@sch.im

Deputy Leader of Maths: david.crawford@sch.im

Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator: david.godwin@sch.im

How You Can Help Your Child in English

- In Year 9, students will continue to develop the key English skills of reading, writing and speaking and listening.
- These skills will be developed through exploring a range of engaging and ambitious content, including war poetry, Shakespeare, famous speeches and contemporary social issues.
- During the year, students will be assessed on how these skills have developed using a range of methods and approaches, and they will be given personalised targets to help their progress.
- By the end of Year 9, students will be ready for the demands of IGCSE, which is now a two year English Language and Literature course beginning in Year 10. Students will also have the opportunity to take Media Studies as a GCSE option.
- You can help your child by supporting their reading outside of school. The ability to read competently is essential to both personal and academic development, and as such we expect all of our students to read independently. There is a fantastic range of teen literature available from our fiction library, and high quality non-fiction is also represents a great choice. Please encourage your child to seek advice from their teachers if they are stuck for something to read.

Year 9 Extra-Curricular Activities

Monday:

| Club: | Time: | Teacher: | Room: | Year Groups: |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| KS3 Homework Support (English) | First Lunch | JES | S7 | 7, 9 |
| Art Club (Art) | First Lunch | JCF | Y1 | 7, 9 |
| Strings Club (Music) | After School | EC | D2 | All |
| Year 9 Hockey (Girls' PE) | After School | LPW | NSC Astro | 9 |
| Year 9 Rugby (Boys' PE) | After School | MS | Changing Room | 9 |
| Yoga Club (Other) | After School | DJB | Gym | 8, 9 |

Tuesday:

| Club: | Time: | Teacher: | Room: | Year Groups: |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------|-------|-------------------|
| Chess Club (Other) | First Lunch | DWC | D4 | 7, 9, 11 |
| Rebellious Rhythm (Music) | First Lunch | REC | M6 | 7, 9, 11 |
| Ballacappella (Music) | After School | NR | D1 | 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 |
| iDEA digital award (Computing) | After School | JIW | L12 | 7, 8, 9 |
| Vivace (Wind Band) (Music) | After School | REC | M6 | All |

Wednesday:

| Club: | Time: | Teacher: | Room: | Year Groups: |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Balla Book Worms (Library) | First Lunch | RA | Fiction Library | 7, 9, 11 |
| Maths Homework catch up (Maths) | First Lunch | JLL | D6 | 7, 9, 11 |
| Science Support (Science) | First Lunch | EP | C3 | 9, 11 |
| Voltaire Society (Politics) | After School | SDP | Lecture Theatre | All |
| Write Club (English) | After School | JES | S7 | All |
| Year 9 Basketball (Boys' PE) | After School | DB | Changing Room | 9 |

Thursday:

| Club: | Time: | Teacher: | Room: | Year Groups: |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| History Club (History) | First Lunch | NM | T5 | 7, 9 |
| Shelfie Club (Library) | First Lunch | RA | Fiction Library | 7, 9, 11 |
| Year 9 Writers' Room (Drama) | First Lunch | PDT | B4 | 9 |
| Debate Club (English) | After School | APC | L4 | All |
| Girls Rugby (Girls' PE) | After School | RLM | School Field | 7, 8, 9 |
| Year 9 Hockey (Girls' PE) | After School | LPW | NSC Astro | 9 |
| Xenakis Singers (Music) | After School | REC | M6 | 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 |
| YoYo Club (Other) | After School | Student Led | New Canteen | All |

Friday:

| Club: | Time: | Teacher: | Room: | Year Groups: |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------|---------------|--------------|
| Maths Homework catch up (Maths) | First Lunch | DWC | D4 | 7, 9, 11 |
| Year 9 Rugby (Boys' PE) | After School | MS | Changing Room | 9 |

Please note: PE activities will change, dependent upon the sporting season