

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above



Supporting your child through their GCSEs

23 September 2026

Results

Subject information

Pillars of success





2026 Exam Results Overview

% of all grades 4+ : 71%

% of all grades 7+ : 20%

Grade 4 +:

English 82%

Maths 70%

Science 64%



Key dates for year 10

15 October – FE and Apprenticeships roadshow

22 October – parents' evening

11 December – reports to parents

11 March – reports to parents

21 June – internal assessments

8 July – World of Work day

12 July – reports to parents



Key people

Tutor

Head of Year 10 – Mr Sage

Head of English – Mrs Field

Head of Maths – Mr Alisauskas

Head of Science – Mrs Melrose

Deputy Head Teacher (data) – Mr S Woodhouse

Deputy Head Teacher (inclusion) – Mr A Kennedy

Careers Advisor – Ms Allen



GCSE English: Edexcel

- All students will complete **GCSE English Language** and follow one of two possible specifications. Both routes are assessed 9-1 and carry equal weighting with further and higher education establishments. The difference is seen in the formatting of tasks and the style of texts.
- All students will complete the **Spoken Language Endorsement** regardless of which route they follow for English Language. The format and assessment criteria is identical.
- All students will complete **GCSE English Literature**.
- **There is no tiered entry for GCSE English.**



GCSE English Language: Edexcel (Traditional Spec)

Paper 1: 19th Century Fiction and Imaginative Writing (40%)

SECTION A: Students examine an extract from an unseen 19th Century novel. They must respond to a range of tasks that are based on the skills of inference, analysis, and evaluation

SECTION B: Students produce an extended creative response to prompts or images and will be judged on their ability to structure and craft language with sophistication and accuracy.

Paper 2: 20th and 21st Century Non-fiction and Transactional Writing (60%)

SECTION A: Students examine two 20th and 21st century non-fiction texts across a range of forms such as, letters, articles, reports, websites or diary entries.

SECTION B: They then produce an extended transactional response to one of two tasks that takes its themes from the Section A texts.

Students are judged on their ability to structure and craft language in varied ways with sophistication and accuracy but with additional focus on writing for a specific audience and purpose.



GCSE English Language: Edexcel (2.0 Spec)

Paper 1: Non-Fiction Texts (50%)

- **SECTION A:** Students examine a range of non-fiction 19th Century texts and develop their analytical and evaluative reading skills.
- **SECTION B:** Students have a choice of two transactional writing tasks, thematically linked to the texts in Section A. Accuracy, sophistry and variety with spelling, punctuation and grammar is assessed in this task.

Paper 2: Contemporary Texts (50%)

- **SECTION A:** Students examine two 20th and 21st century prose fiction and literary non-fiction. Students will respond to a range short and open response questions on two thematically linked unseen extracts.
- **SECTION B:** Students produce an extended imaginative response to one of two tasks that takes its themes from the Section A texts. Students will be judged on their ability to structure and craft language in varied ways with sophistication and accuracy.



GCSE English Language: Spoken Language Endorsement

All students are required to complete the Spoken Language Endorsement (SLE). This is common across all GCSE exam boards and students have to do it.

The SLE does not carry any weight toward the overall qualification. Students research, plan and deliver a short (4-5 minutes) presentation on an appropriate, and mutually agreed, topic. They must answer questions posed at the end of their presentation. Students are judged on their ability to speak with clarity, order and sophistication. They will also be judged on the depth and challenge of their responses to questions posed.

Students be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction for their efforts. All students will deliver their presentation to their class. Teachers will record presentations from selected students as evidence to send to the exam board.



GCSE English Literature: Edexcel

Paper 1: Shakespeare and Post 1914 Literature (50%)

"Romeo and Juliet"

They first answer one extract based task and then a second task that focuses on the thematic issues raised in the extract, as they can be evidenced throughout the play as a whole. They will also be expected to comment on the relationship between the play and the context(s) in which it was written and performed.

"An Inspector Calls"

Students will be given a choice of two tasks that are based on key elements plot, theme and character. Their response should examine such elements closely as well as make links to the context(s) in which the play was set, written and performed. Students will also be awarded a mark for the quality of the written communication.

Paper 2: 19th Century Novel and Poetry since 1789 (50%)

"A Christmas Carol"

Students study the 19th Century text "A Christmas Carol". Students complete a two part task: one with an extract and one that examines the whole text.

"Belonging" Poetry

- Students work in their Edexcel Poetry Anthology. We focus on a range of literary devices as well as the context of each poem. In the exam students are given one of the poems studied and asked to compare it, based on a thematic steer, to one of the other poems studied.

Unseen Poetry

Students will be given two unseen poems and are asked to compare how a specific element, usually content based or a thematic idea.

Both exams are closed book – students will not have full copies of the set texts with them in the exams.



English Revision Tips

- Read widely – including some 19th century texts
- Expand your vocabulary
- Past Papers
- Get to know the criteria
- Talk to your teachers
- Take detailed notes in all lessons and respond to all feedback
- Attend the revision sessions recommended to you



GCSE Mathematics: AQA 8300

Paper 1: non-calculator	+	Paper 2: calculator	+	Paper 3: calculator
What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed
How it's assessed • written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 80 marks • non-calculator • 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment		How it's assessed • written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 80 marks • calculator allowed • 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment		How it's assessed • written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 80 marks • calculator allowed • 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment
Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.



Maths tiers

Foundation Grades 1 to 5

Higher Grades 3 to 9

Topic Area	Foundation Tier (%)	Higher Tier (%)
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and statistics (combined)	15	15



How to be successful in Maths

Ensure you have a revision guide which you are using – AQA exam board.

Practice little and often – every day for 20 mins is perfect.

Complete all homework set.

Attend intervention sessions offered by the maths department (Tuesday after school – parents to sign up on Arbor).

Work on the things you know you can't do.

Complete one past paper in exam conditions every 2-3 weeks.

Bring all equipment to every lesson which includes a calculator, compass, ruler and a protractor.



Useful resources

Students have access to **Sparx** which they should be using regularly. Some of their homework will be set on Sparx, but they also have the option to work on topics independently. They can complete questions and watch videos that can guide them through all topics at Higher and Foundation.

CorbettMaths website – free revision videos with corresponding worksheets and examination questions. Also the famous 5-a-day worksheet where students get to complete 5 questions each day.

1st class maths website – has videos, worksheets, practice papers and past papers.

Onmaths website – allows students to complete past papers online with immediate feedback. Once they complete a full paper they will get an approximate grade. Extremely helpful as it allows you to see if you are making progress.



GCSE Science: OCR exam board

Some students are following the Triple Science route and will gain separate GCSE grades (1-9) for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Most students are following the GCSE Combined Science route. This course covers material from Biology, Chemistry and Physics but will result in two Science GCSEs grades (1,1 to 9,9) which come from the average performance across all the GCSE Science exams.

Students on either route can apply to study any A-level Science course



Science Exams

All students will sit 6 GCSE science exams in the summer; 2 in Biology, 2 in Chemistry and 2 in Physics.

For the Triple Science groups, each exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes long to examine the additional content covered in Triple Science.

For the Combined Science groups, each exam will be 1 hour 10 minutes long.



Making the most of Science

Ensure you bring the correct equipment to each lesson, particularly the correct exercise book and your own scientific calculator.

Address weaknesses, or anything you don't understand, as they arise. All the Science teachers are happy to go through tricky concepts again at lunchtime or after school – don't be afraid to ask!

Try to attend every lesson. If you are absent be proactive and ask your teacher what you have missed; it could have been a required practical activity which you will need to do at some point.



Revising for Science

We recommend purchasing the CPG revision guide. Encourage students to bring this to lessons as well as using it to aid your revision at home.

Look at the OCR specification and either download or print a copy for the course you are following. This is a list of everything you will need to know for your GCSE exam. A good tip is to tick off each topic as you revise it.

Revise the required practical activities as well as the content covered in each lesson. The exam board is required to include questions on these experiments.

Revise for your mock exams. Every year the students who work hard in preparing for their mock exams will ultimately make the most progress.



Central pillars to success

Establish plans for September 2028 as early as possible.
Begin revision now

Work hard in class

Complete all homework

Ensure that your focus is increasingly on success at GCSE

Attend school.



By law, all students need to be in education, employment (with training) or an apprenticeship until they are 18

Start thinking and researching now for your child's continuing education post 16

PWS 6th Form – A levels

Exposure to local opportunities in assembly

Careers 1-2-1 sessions with Kate Allen conducted during the summer term





Tutor groups

Year 11 students are placed in tutor groups based on the subject that they need the most help with and taught that subject in tutor time

These are taught by leading members of the departments

Students move between tutor groups during the year dependent on their needs



Revision

Learning to revise is a key factor in success at GCSE

Start by making a timetable. Aim to establish a routine whereby a student is completing 10 hours/week of revision now

This will take the pressure off next year

Use [pastpapers.com](https://www.pastpapers.com) as a source of past papers as a key revision tool

A graphic of a revision timetable titled 'Revision Timetable'. It features a grid for planning study sessions. The grid has 7 rows for the days of the week (Sunday to Saturday) and 8 columns for time slots (9-10am to 6-7pm). A header row specifies 'Study Times - fill in at least 14 slots of 40 minutes each'. The days of the week are color-coded: Sunday (blue), Monday (yellow), Tuesday (yellow), Wednesday (yellow), Thursday (yellow), Friday (pink), and Saturday (pink). The subjects to be revised are listed in a column on the right: English, Maths, Science, Option 1, Option 2, Option 3, and Option 4. The timetable shows that Monday through Friday have the first four time slots (9-10am to 2-3pm) shaded grey, indicating they are reserved for revision. Saturday and Sunday have all time slots available for revision.

	9-10am	10-11am	11-12pm	12-1pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	4-5pm	5-6pm	6-7pm	SUBJECTS
Sunday										English
Monday										Maths
Tuesday										Science
Wednesday										Option 1
Thursday										Option 2
Friday										Option 3
Saturday										Option 4



Try –

Past paper practice



East Midlands
Academy Trust

There are 190 days in a school year

Missing school means missing out!

If your child is at school for 190 days out of 190, that's 100% attendance.
Your child has a good chance of doing well at school.

If your child is at school for 180 days out of 190, that's 95% attendance. The child will achieve 1/2 a grade less in every subject they take at GCSE.

If your child is at school for 169 days out of 190, that's 89% attendance. Your child has been off for 21 days, and will achieve a full grade less in every subject at GCSE.

If your child is at school for 161 days out of 190, that's 85% attendance.
Your child has been off for 29 days, nearly 6 school weeks.

If your child is at school for 150 days out of 190, that's 79% attendance.
Your child has been off school for 40 days.

If your child is at school for 143 days out of 190,
that's 75% attendance.

Your child has missed more than 9 school weeks.

**Is your child
missing out?**



As the exams approach

Reduce other commitments like work or hobbies – but keep enough to maintain good mental health

Ensure that attendance is good. Medical appointments need to be outside school time (as far as possible) and please do not take holidays during term time

Plan quality time off and be aware of stress levels

Students should work increasingly in silence with no electronic distractions

Good
luck!

