



# Year 10 Success Evening

Tom Grey (Co-Headteacher)

Beverley Tucker (Co-Headteacher)

Pete Hurry (Assistant Headteacher)



# GCSE Overview

- Two/Three year course
- NEW courses
- Linear courses
- New GCSE 1-9 scale
- Examinations at the end of year 11



# GCSE English Language 9-1

# GCSE English Literature 9-1

Megan Reynard – Subject Leader for English



# Key Information

- 100% examination
- No coursework or controlled assessments
- 4 exams – 2 Language; 2 Literature
- Closed book examinations
- No tiered entry; every student will sit the same exam papers.



# English Language examines...

- Reading unseen non-fiction and literary texts – both old and modern.
- Writing – informative, persuasive and descriptive texts. Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) is a key aspect of this section of the exam.



# English Language examines...

- Reading unseen non-fiction and literary texts – both old and modern.
- Writing – informative, persuasive and descriptive texts.



# GCSE English Literature examines...

- An Inspector Calls or The Lord of the Flies
- Conflict Poetry (AQA anthology)
- Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde or A Christmas Carol
- Romeo and Juliet
- Unseen poetry
- SPaG is also tested



# English Exams

- Language
  - Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Writing & Reading written exam  
(1hr 45min)
  - Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives written exam  
(1hr 45min)
- Literature
  - Paper 1: Shakespeare & the 19th century novel written exam  
(1hr 45min)
  - Paper 2: Modern Texts & Poetry written exam  
(2hr 15min)





# How Can Parents Help?

- Help develop reading and writing skills. Encourage reading a variety of texts including high quality non-fiction.
- Helping with Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG!)
- Practising past questions and annotating extracts of texts
- Understanding the characters, themes, ideas, plot, language and structure of the set literary texts
- Learning and remembering language terminology and quotations
- Helping students to **KNOW HOW TO REVISE ENGLISH!**



# Mathematics

Robin Woodhouse – Subject Leader for Maths

Students complete a three year GCSE course and take their mathematics exam in the summer of year 11.



# Assessment

- Assessment consists of 3 exam papers
  - Paper 1: Non-Calculator 90 mins
  - Paper 2: Calculator allowed 90 mins
  - Paper3 : Calculator allowed 90 mins
- Any topic/skill can come up on any paper!



# Tiers of Entry

- Two Tiers are available
  - Higher: grades 3 – 9 are available
  - Foundation: grades 1 – 5 are available



# Question and Solution Styles

- Each paper will consist of 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



# Revision

- Help with revision, especially monitoring pace and progress – encourage the use of online resources.
- In particular help develop independence through using revision guides, workbooks and online resources.



# Combined Sciences Separate Sciences

David Thompson – Subject Leader for Science



# What is AQA Trilogy Science?

- A relevant science course that links science to issues relevant to all pupils.
- A course that will develop pupils ability to create arguments that link evidence to conclusions.
- A course that will develop pupils abilities in their understanding of how practical experiments are designed to develop scientific explanations.





# Combined Science

- Combined science is a double award GCSE so pupils will get a double grade (i.e. 9/9, 5/4 etc)
- Covers a range of biology, chemistry and physics topics
- Includes the key assessed practical techniques pupils can be assessed on in their exams
- Students require a grade 6 to continue their study of science at A-Level



# Separate Science

- In the separate science course students will get a separate GCSE grade in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Covers the same range of biology, chemistry and physics topics as in combined science but in greater depth
- Includes the assessed practical techniques for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics that pupils can be assessed on in their exams
- Students require a grade 6 to continue their study of science at A-Level



# Biology Topics

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology



# Chemistry Topics

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources



# Physics Topics

1. Forces
2. Energy
3. Waves
4. Electricity
5. Magnetism and electromagnetism
6. Particle model of matter
7. Atomic structure
8. Space physics (Physics only)



# Combined Science Exams

**Biology**

**Biology Paper 1**  
1hr 15mins

16.7% of total GCSE

**Biology Paper 2**  
1hr 15mins

16.7% of total GCSE

**Chemistry**

**Chemistry Paper 1**  
1hr 15mins

16.7% of total GCSE

**Chemistry Paper 2**  
1hr 15mins

16.7% of total GCSE

**Physics**

**Physics Paper 1**  
1hr 15mins

16.7% of total GCSE

**Physics Paper 2**  
1hr 15mins

16.7% of total GCSE



# Separate Science Exams

**Biology**

**Biology Paper 1**  
1hr 45mins

50% of total GCSE

**Biology Paper 2**  
1hr 45mins

50% of total GCSE

**Chemistry**

**Chemistry Paper 1**  
1hr 45mins

50% of total GCSE

**Chemistry Paper 2**  
1hr 45mins

50% of total GCSE

**Physics**

**Physics Paper 1**  
1hr 45mins

50% of total GCSE

**Physics Paper 2**  
1hr 45mins

50% of total GCSE



# Revising for Science

- Students would benefit from reading daily newspapers and accessing science sections of websites such as the BBC.
- They should get their science revision guide from student services
- Revising using the past papers available on the AQA website is the best preparation for their exams





# Total Exam Hours for Core Subjects

19 hours 30 minutes (for combined science students)

22 hours 30 minutes (for single science students)



# How can parents and carers help?



# Keep motivated

- Agree the work – life balance. Be flexible!
- Anticipate the overwhelm and demotivation – avoid berating
- Talk to them – even if you get rebuffed
- Encourage them to see perspective – and not the catastrophe



# Growth Mindset

- Appreciate a challenge
- View mistakes as learning
- Effort is seen as the path to mastery
- Perseverance
- Has a positive 'can do' attitude
- Understands that intelligence can be developed



# Top Tips

- Discuss the process – “What have you been learning about?”
- Focus feedback on effort not attainment
- Encourage risk, failing and learning from mistakes
- Model and encourage ‘Grit’
- Find alternative ways to find success
- Learning Walls
- Set targets – more importantly how are they going to be achieved?



# Revision

- Review and Revise
- Little and often
- Break it down
- Create resources to use several times
- Take up in school opportunities
- Get resourced!
- Revise actively



# School Website

Respect | Aspiration | Creativity  
Inspiring young people in Bury St Edmunds since 1550

# Attendance Matters

100%

**Good Attendance**

## **100% Attendance**

82% chance of achieving 5 good GCSEs at grade 4 or above with English and Maths

## **Good Attendance (above 95%)**

74% chance of achieving 5 good GCSEs at grade 4 or above with English and Maths

95%

**Some risk of underachievement**

## **Low Attendance (90-95%)**

57% chance of achieving 5 good GCSEs at grade 4 or above with English and Maths

## **Persistent Absence (Attendance 85-90%)**

41% chance of achieving 5 good GCSEs at grade 4 or above with English and Maths

90%

**Significant risk of underachievement**

## **High Persistent Absence (Attendance below 85%)**

22% chance of achieving 5 good GCSEs at grade 4 or above with English and Maths

These are the latest figures from the Department of Education.

**Achievement matters**

**Attendance matters**

85%

**Severe risk**





# Here to help

Respect | Aspiration | Creativity  
Inspiring young people in Bury St Edmunds since 1550



# Who Can Help?

- Mr Hurry                      Assistant Head Year 10
- Mr Post                        College Head – Year 10
- Form Tutor
- Heads of College
- Pastoral Support Managers (PSMs)
- Mrs Blyth                      Exams Officer
- Mrs Scott                      SENCO
- Subject leaders / teachers